



Jordan Times

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Kamuda's son sentenced to death for murder

LUSAKA (AP) — President Kenneth Kamuda's youngest son was sentenced to death Monday for killing a young woman. The victim's father, Goliath Mwansa, told a reporter outside the high court afterwards, "I'm not even feeling good because my child is not alive. I will only feel better after that man is hanged." Kenneth Kamuda was not in the high court at the time the sentence was announced. He has made no public pronouncements about the case. If Kenneth Kamuda wins presidential elections scheduled Oct. 31, he could, under the constitution, pardon his son. Judge Claver Masumali earlier turned to Kambarage Kamuda, 27, in the dock and declared, "... I order that you are hanged by the neck until you are pronounced dead." The court found that Kambarage Kamuda had, on the night of Sept. 3, 1989, drawn a pistol and shot dead Tabeth Mwansa, 20. The judge rejected Mr. Kamuda's defence that his car was surrounded by an angry mob and that he fired to protect himself and a friend. The young Kamuda, wearing dark glasses, stared impassively back at the judge before raising his hand in the V-for-victory salute of his father's ruling United National Independence Party. Prison officers then led him away to the cells to await the outcome of an application for appeal.

Spanish foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez arrived here on a 24-hour visit to Jordan Monday during which he held political, economic and commercial talks with Prime Minister Taher Masiari. Foreign Minister Kameel Abu Jaber and other high-level officials. Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez flew in from Syria on the second stop of a tour which also would take him to Iraq. Among the topics to be discussed, the Spanish official said in an arrival statement, are the ongoing efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference which Washington hopes to convene before the end of the month. The visit coincides with a swing through the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who is trying to eliminate obstacles before invitations to the conference could be issued. Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez underlined Jordan's key role in the peace process. During a meeting with the Spanish guest in Damascus earlier, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad stressed the importance of "the international community's participation to enforce international legitimacy in the region." He renewed his call for a "European role in current peace efforts." Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez said Spain was not involved in the conference except through the European Community's decisions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Major meets Musa in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — British Prime Minister John Major met with senior Egyptian officials Monday during a brief stop on his way to Zimbabwe for a conference of Commonwealth nations. Mr. Major met for 45 minutes with Amr Musa, Egypt's foreign minister, at Cairo airport. The meeting came shortly after Mr. Musa saw off U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who flew to Amman. "Concerning the peace conference, it is something we have wished to see for a long time," Mr. Major told reporters.

118 detainees and POWs repatriated

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Eight prisoners of war (POWs) and a group of 110 civilians stuck in Iraq for months were repatriated to Kuwait Monday. Sources at the government-run National Committee for the Missing and the POWs said the returnees arrived by plane early this morning from the Saudi border town of Arar, where they had been released by Iraq. The eight POWs were all widows who lived in the chaire before Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion. The 110 civilians included Kuwaiti nationals, stateless Arabs, a Syrian man and Sri Lankan woman.

Moroccan forces leave Gulf

NICOSIA (R) — Moroccan forces which joined the U.S.-led alliance to oust Iraq from Kuwait in the early days of the Gulf crisis left Abu Dhabi Monday for home, the United Arab Emirates news agency (WAM) said. King Hassan sent a symbolic unit of 1,200 soldiers to the Gulf but they were not involved in combat.

Iran executes 28

NICOSIA (R) — Twenty-eight convicted drug traffickers, including two Afghans and four Iranians, were executed in the northern Iranian city of Mashhad Monday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. Since the beginning of the Iranian year in March, 152 drug traffickers have now been executed in Mashhad, added the agency. Executions in Iran are usually by hanging.

Pakistan court frees 2 American brothers

PESHAWAR (AP) — The supreme court Monday threw out an Islamic court conviction and spared two American Muslim brothers sentenced to have their right hands and left feet cut off for theft. The high court picked apart the prosecutor's arguments that Charles Boyd, 29, and his brother Daniel, 23, had stolen 80,000 rupees (\$3,200) from a suburban bank.

Denktash party wins bye-elections

NICOSIA (R) — The ruling National Unity Party (NUP) in breakaway north Cyprus has won 10 out of 12 parliamentary seats in a weekend bye-election, officials said Monday. The NUP, led by Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, now has 45 of the parliament's 50 seats. Sunday's bye-election was boycotted by three parties which accused the administration of pursuing undemocratic policies. About half of the 105,000 eligible voters turned out.

Moscow to cut troops on Kurile Islands

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is to reduce by one-third its military forces on four islands claimed by Japan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. Vitaly Churkin, speaking at a news briefing, estimated the total force on the islands at 7,000 to 8,000 men.

Shamir to address European Parliament

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Oct. 22, the Israeli embassy said Monday.

King satisfied, confident and hopeful after talks with Baker

U.S. secretary confident peace conference on schedule

By Marissa M. Shaheen
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that he was satisfied with the final draft of the U.S. letter of assurance to Jordan ahead of the planned Middle East peace conference and that he felt satisfied, hopeful and confident as the first Arab-Israeli peace talks loomed nearer.

The King, addressing reporters after a joint press conference with Mr. Baker, described the secretary of state's current visit as "very, very important" and said the discussions in Amman covered "the developments

so far, which are very promising and very positive."

Mr. Baker, who arrived here from Cairo on the second leg of his eighth Middle East shuttle since March, said the Palestinians may be missing a historic opportunity to be involved in determining their future if they chose not to participate in the peace talks. "The bus is not going to come by again," Mr. Baker said, in a re-statement of his argument that it was the Palestinians that had the most to lose and the most to gain by the success of the proposed peace conference.

"This is an important time," said Mr. Baker, who has been trying to convince all parties into attending the peace conference, called for by U.S.

President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and expected to be held this month.

"We will know within a reasonably short period of time whether we will have an active peace process in this region or not," Mr. Baker said.

Secretary Baker reiterated that Jordan had been the most positive and serious party involved in the American-led efforts for peace in the region. "I don't think anybody, Your Majesty, has been more courageous in their support of peace, has been more forward-leaning or more helpful than have you Sir," he said in addressing the King.

"I don't think there can be an active and viable peace process looking toward a comprehensive settle-

ment or peace between Arabs and Israelis without your active and strong support and participation and I am delighted, Your Majesty, and... we are grateful for that participation, we value the participation," he added.

In his opening remarks, the King said: "I would like to say how happy I am to have this opportunity to welcome my dear friend Secretary Baker again and his colleagues. We have followed... the efforts you have made for the establishment of a process leading to a just and durable peace in the region. You have our admiration and respect... for your sincere

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Wednesday's PLO Central Council expected to endorse joint delegation

West Bank Palestinians might see Baker today

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council has been called to session in Tunis Wednesday and is expected to endorse Palestinian participation at the proposed American-sponsored Middle East peace conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Palestinian officials said Monday.

A number of Palestinian personalities from the Israeli-occupied territories were expected to arrive here today as part of coordination efforts, to form the Jordanian-Palestinian team, the officials said.

By press time last night, a

broad meeting of Palestinian personalities was being held in the Israeli-occupied West Bank to discuss sending delegates to Amman and choose the personalities who will arrive tomorrow.

But well-informed sources in the West Bank, reached by phone through the U.S., told the Jordan Times that a leading Palestinian political activist, Radwan Abu Ayyash, was on his way to Amman from New York.

The PLO officials said that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has approved sending Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories to Amman in response to a condition put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The officials said that the personalities will come to Amman to

basically confer with senior PLO officials, who arrived here from Tunis Sunday and Monday. But one official said: "We are not sure how this will take place. The Palestinian personalities might meet Jordanian officials separately or along with PLO officials."

The PLO, the officials said, is concerned that any meeting in Amman should be held and presented as part of coordination between the PLO and the Jordanian government.

"It has to be clear that the PLO cannot be just pushed out of the picture. All meetings will be held by the approval of the PLO and within the context of coordination between Jordan and the PLO," a PLO official said.

Although the Palestine Central Council (PCC) is the only body

authorised by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to take the final decision, the PLO leadership, which met in Tunis over the weekend, has concluded that there was no other option left.

"Despite opposition, we expect the PCC to endorse Palestinian participation in a joint delegation with Jordan," said a senior PLO official.

The PLO official said the Executive Committee had recommended that Palestinians take part in the conference in a joint delegation with Jordan, and the PCC was expected to approve this recommendation, "barring any last-minute surprises."

The PLO, however, is still trying to ensure and insisting on

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Sanctions Committee studies plan to monitor Iraqi oil

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— The Security Council's Sanctions Committee was Monday considering plans to monitor Iraq's future oil flows that would include three Norwegian experts reviewing each contract between Baghdad and its buyers, diplomats said.

The Norwegians would be seconded to the United Nations to approve or turn down contracts on the spot rather than refer them first to the Sanctions Committee. They will work on a 24-hour basis in eight hour shifts.

Under Security Council regulations monitoring Iraq's future oil sales, the Sanctions Committee has to approve all contracts in order to control the revenues from each delivery.

"This proved to be impractical as decisions in the oil business will have to be made quickly so designated experts will make the decision on the spot and then inform the committee," said one envoy on the committee, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Iraq, still under a stringent trade embargo since the beginning of the Gulf war, is permitted to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil over a six-month period.

All the funds are to go to a U.N. escrow account, with about a third designated for war reparations and U.N. costs for monitoring and destroying Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

About \$933 million will remain for Iraq to purchase badly needed food, medical and other humanitarian supplies, under U.N. supervision.

Iraq has not yet said it would pump the oil under such scrutiny, which it considers a gross violation of its national sovereignty, although it has little choice but to comply.

But experts from Iraq's state oil company have been contacting potential buyers and are negotiating with Turkey, which has raised its fees for oil running through Iraq's northern pipeline.

The Norwegian officials from

Soviets may renew full ties with Israel this month

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday he was optimistic the Soviet Union and Israel could restore full diplomatic relations before the end of the month.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin did not give a specific date for restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel but said preparations would be made during the visit later this week to Israel by Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

Mr. Pankin will travel to Israel Thursday to discuss the Middle East peace conference and meet Friday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Mr. Churkin said. Mr. Pankin also will travel to Syria, Jordan and Egypt during the six-day trip to the Middle East, he said.

Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel were severed since the 1967 war, but ties between the two sides have been improving in the past three years.

"Our states have made significant progress in establishing con-

tacts," Mr. Churkin said. "Our goal, and we never hid this goal, is to approach the establishment of full-scale diplomatic relations."

"It being such an important step, we would like to see it happen at the most propitious time," Mr. Churkin said. "It is our feeling that sometime on the eve of the peace conference would be a time when such a step would be properly understood by all and would serve the purpose of advancing Soviet-Israeli relations and peace in the Middle East."

"It is my hope and understanding that it could happen by the end of the month," he said. Mr. Pankin said last week that the main goal of his trip is to lay the groundwork for the peace conference that is to be co-sponsored by the Soviet Union and the United States.

It will be Mr. Pankin's first visit to the region since being named foreign minister Aug. 28 after the failed coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hostage breakthrough tip marred by new kidnap claim

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A breakthrough in the seven-year-old Middle East hostage drama seemed at hand with the return of a U.N. troubleshooter to the region, diplomats and political sources said Monday.

"We expect a breakthrough in the hostage crisis with the arrival of (U.N. envoy) Giandomenico Picco," a pro-Syrian source told Reuters. "A Western hostage could be released soon."

Mr. Picco, a top aide to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, arrived in Damascus from New York Sunday to push forward a deal to swap Western hostages and six Israeli servicemen held in Lebanon for more than 300 Arabs jailed by Israel.

His return to the Middle East prompted renewed speculation that the next to be freed would be U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio, seized by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) in 1986. In Tehran, the English-

language Tehran Times reported a U.S. hostage could be freed soon. "Maybe one American will go to home soon if no unforeseen incidents take place as happened before," it said.

But an underground faction using a welter of confusing names claimed in two phone calls Monday that an Israeli soldier has been kidnapped and would be traded for prisoners held by Israel.

The claims, made two hours apart in phone calls to Western news agencies, could not be independently verified.

Kidnap groups often include a photograph of one of their victims to verify their written statements. No such photograph or written statement appeared. "An Israeli army spokesman said, 'We don't have any information indicating this is true... we are checking out the story.'"

ported to speak for a group called Hizbollah-Palestine. The first Arabic-speaking caller at about 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) identified the alleged kidnap victim as Yacov Samir Yizhai and said details of how and where he was abducted would be revealed in later communiques.

The caller warned Israeli authorities against mounting a search-and-arrest campaign, saying "this would reflect adversely on the safety of the prisoner."

"The motive behind his capture is to trade him for a number of the Mujahideen held in the enemy's jails. We shall later specify their number," the caller said and hung up.

The caller said in introducing himself that the statement was issued by Hizbollah-Palestine, formerly Hizbollah-Beit Al Maqdes (Jerusalem). After the release of British

hostage John McCarthy in August, a group calling itself Hizbollah-Palestine said it was holding an Israeli prisoner, never confirmed. It said then that factious holding Western hostages should refrain from trading them until its own brethren were released.

Hizbollah Jerusalem had claimed several rocket attacks earlier this year against the Israeli-occupied zone in Lebanon. The name change could reflect a split in the group, or a whim on the part of the caller. The second caller said it was a splinter group within Hizbollah-Palestine that kidnapped the Israeli — the martyr Sabre Hlou group, Battalion of the Martyrdom Lovers.

The names seemed to indicate that the callers were linked to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

The second caller said the Israeli was under arrest at one of



His Majesty King Hussein greets U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Royal Palace Monday

delegation to official talks with an American delegation led by the secretary (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)



Israelis seal 3 W. Bank homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli army said Monday it had sealed the homes of three Palestinians suspected of killing Israelis.

The army closed up the home of Rabeel Abdullah Zaydan, who killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded 11 by slamming a stolen truck into a bus queue near Tel Aviv Friday.

Israel Radio said Mr. Zaydan, of Kibya village in the occupied West Bank, told interrogators he wanted to avenge the police killing of 18 Arabs on Jerusalem a year ago.

The army also sealed the homes of Diad Ahmad Hizar and Jamal Haled Ibrahim, both from West Bank refugee camps near Jenin, who were captured during an army operation in the West Bank last week.

They told police they took part in the stabbing to death of an Israeli man late last month.

Israel's policy of sealing the homes of Palestinians in the occupied territories has been condemned worldwide as unacceptable punishment which leaves entire families homeless.

Crown Prince becomes full member of Morocco academy

RABAT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday accepted full membership of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco. His membership was announced by academy member Abdul Hadi Bouteb.

Prince Hassan delivered a brief address following the announcement, voicing his deep appreciation of the move and said he takes deep pride in being member of the institution.

Crown Prince Hassan paid tribute to King Hassan II of Morocco who sponsors the academy and said that the academy, which groups renowned personalities from around the world, gives impetus to the role of intellectual dialogue and paves the ground for a better understanding among nations of the world.

The various issues tackled by this academy, the Prince said, are of concern and interest to the Arab and Islamic countries and the subjects discussed at the academy meetings are bound to



benefit researchers and scholars. The Crown Prince also delivered a speech to the academy on "Does the right of intervention bestow new legitimacy upon imperialism."

The full text of the address will be published in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

Turkey ends attacks on Kurdish rebels in N. Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey is pulling its forces out of northern Iraq after destroying a string of Turkish separatist Kurdish bases in cross-border raids, a senior military official said Monday.

"The operation ended with positive results. The bases were completely destroyed," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

"Troops started returning on late Saturday," he added.

Military sources said some 3,000 troops backed by fighter-bombers and helicopters took part in the weekend strikes on bases of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

General Staff spokesman Colonel Necdet Ipek disputed the numbers Sunday and said the land action involved small groups of strike forces.

Witnesses in Turkey's border town of Cukurca said at least 10 planes, troop-carrying helicopters and soldiers crossed into Iraq for a third consecutive day.

The official said he had no information on reports of troop and plane movements into Iraq Sunday.

"Reporters might have mistaken regular reconnaissance flights for air attacks. Such flights are still being continued in the border region," the official said. The Iraqi Kurdish villages of Banik, Dirze, Selandji, Kani Masi, Begova, Banerni and Sencer were hit by the air raids

Friday and Saturday, said a Turkish reporter in Zakho in northern Iraq.

Many Iraqi Kurds from the villages had fled to Zakho.

Turkey's action against the rebels has prompted by the killing of 11 Turkish soldiers last Monday by PKK rebels, whose violent campaign for an independent state in southeast Turkey has killed more than 3,300 people since mid-1984.

The Iraqi government has strongly protested at the incursion and said Turkish planes used napalm to attack villages seven kilometres inside its territory.

Baghdad warned Ankara Saturday that "grave consequences" might result if military operations in Iraq continued.

An Iraqi Kurdish official said Sunday that Iraq had strengthened its military force in northern Iraq.

Serchil Kazaz, the representative for Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Ankara, said Baghdad dispatched two divisions of Iraqi Republican Guards — about 30,000 troops — to Zumar township, 50 kilometres south of the Turkish border.

Mr. Kazaz also said new groups of Iraqi aircraft, including 14 Mirages, arrived recently at airports in Mosul and Tall Afar in northern Iraq.

Mr. Kazaz said 212 Iraqi pilots and 241 aircraft mechanics were also sent to the two airports.

Saddam goes on counter-attack against sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has launched a counter-attack against trade sanctions he says are orchestrated by the United States to strangle Iraq.

"The battle is not over. What is over is merely the attacks by the unjust, infidel forces led by the USA," he told delegates at a conference of solidarity with Iraq.

Using some of his strongest language since the Gulf crisis, the Iraqi leader appealed to ordinary Arabs to get their governments to break the embargo, imposed by the United Nations 13 months ago to punish Baghdad for invading Kuwait.

His speech appeared to mark a new phase in Iraq's struggle to get the sanctions lifted by rallying the support of ordinary Arabs over the heads of reluctant governments.

He said ordinary Egyptians and Syrians, who took part in the U.S.-led coalition which defeated Iraq, would never have agreed to attack Iraq if they had had the choice.

"Had Arab lands and Arab waters not been put at his disposal as an arena for the operations, he (U.S. President George Bush) wouldn't have dared fire the first shell against Arabs and Muslims," he said.

He said the Iraqis were still proud of the war, which ended last February that saw Iraqi forces pushed from Kuwait after a seven-month occupation.

"Your brethren in Iraq made great sacrifices, but they regret nothing because they believe in their struggle," he told the Arab delegates.

"The calls for ending the sanctions should begin with the Arab and Islamic countries themselves. Let every citizen in that country demand that the siege against Iraq be ended," President Saddam said.

"The appeals should not be directed to the United Nations, but the Arab rulers," he said.

Iraq is unable to import enough food because its assets are frozen overseas and imports are snared in U.N. Sanctions Committee red tape.

"The person who sacrificed his blood to maintain his dignity and to keep the doors of the future open is ready to continue on the same path with the same will and faith," President Saddam declared.

He warned that if the Arab World did not take care, a day would come when Israel controlled the history books in Arab schools and universities.

The Arab World from west to east would have voted against any war with Iraq, he said.

"Today (the battle) is in its ugliest phase. What is happening to Iraq has never happened in the history of humanity," said President Saddam, clad in green combat fatigues and interrupted by rapturous applause.

"Never have there been such unjust sanctions aimed at children, women and the elderly."

He made no explicit reference to a U.N. resolution which would allow Baghdad to sell \$1.6 billion of oil to pay war reparations and import essentials under strict U.N. supervision.

But he appeared to rule it out. "It should be clear to you that Iraq could live under sanctions for 10 to 20 years without asking anything from anyone," he said.

"Iraqis are not ready to lose their dignity and honour for an extra piece of food."

"Both Iraqi men and women realise that once they deviate from this path, everything could be taken from them," he added.

Doctors say infant mortality in Iraq has risen threefold since the Gulf war because of shortages of antibiotics and basic medical equipment and a wrecked water supply system.

The Iraqi media remind the 18 million people that they are under trade sanctions which have cut their economic artery — oil exports.



Saddam Hussein

President Saddam also lashed out at a Security Council vote Friday which gave the United Nations sweeping new powers to disarm Iraq and to stop it ever acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The conference approved a final resolution calling for an Arab boycott of U.S. goods, a solidarity fund from Arab individuals and governments and a labour boycott of ships and planes operated by the U.S.-led anti Iraq allies.

The resolution also called on Iraq, which sent no delegates to the talks, to return Iraqi air force planes flown there for safekeeping during the Gulf war which ended in February.

Iraq has refused to return the aircraft, the cream of Iraq's air force.

The conference communique said Iraq should get a \$100 billion loan from "the Arab people" against bonds issued by the Iraqi government and donations from Arabs.

The communique lashed out at Iran and Turkey for their "suspicious and sly role" against Iraq, saying if they continued they would damage their relations with the entire Arab World.

The conference called on North African states to airlift supplies of food and medicine to Iraq.

It called for public demonstrations against the coalition forces on Dec. 1, Jan. 1 and a boycott of ships, planes and other transportation from coalition force countries on Jan. 17.

The communique said Arabs in Europe should organise committees to call on Pope John Paul II to enlist his support in lifting the boycott.

Israel and Aeroflot agree direct flights

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Jewish Agency and the Soviet airline Aeroflot signed an agreement Sunday to start direct flights for Soviet Jewish immigrants within a month.

Jewish Agency spokesman Gad Ben Ari said Aeroflot subsidiary Transair would fly the immigrants directly to Israel from Moscow and St. Petersburg. Aeroflot agreed to negotiate reciprocal flights with Israel's El Al airline.

Jews leaving the Soviet Union until this month had to stop at transit stations in Eastern Europe on their way to Israel.

A private charter airline run by Israeli businessmen brought the first immigrants on direct flights earlier this month.

Mr. Ben Ari said the flights would make immigration simpler. The Jewish Agency is responsible for bringing immigrants to Israel.

More than 300,000 Soviet Jews have moved to Israel in the past two years since the Kremlin liberalised emigration procedures. Israel expected a million Soviet immigrants by 1995.

El Al and Aeroflot signed an agreement for direct flights in 1989 but it was never implemented, apparently due to political considerations in Moscow.

Mr. Ben Ari said Sunday's agreement would remove the final obstacles to direct flights.

Estonia hopes to establish ties

Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri, in a letter to his Israeli counterpart David Levy, said Sunday that Estonia hopes to establish diplomatic ties with Israel soon.

Israel's foreign ministry quoted Mr. Meri's letter as saying that "the Estonian people and its government are expressing their deepest sorrow about the thousands of Jews who were killed on Estonian land" during World War II.

"The Estonian people have always condemned such crimes but at that time they did not have any possibility or power to prevent these events," the letter said.

About 1,000 Estonian Jews, all who did not succeed in escaping into Russia, were killed by the Nazis by the end of 1941. In the following years, German and Baltic Jews have been murdered or subjected to forced labour at Nazi camps in Estonia.

Mr. Meri, on behalf of his government, also pledged to preserve Jewish cultural identity in Estonia, the ministry said in a statement.

"The Estonian government hopes that traditional friendly relations between Estonia and the Jewish community will serve as the basis for friendship between Estonia and Israel," it quoted the letter as saying.

Israel, following the lead of its U.S. ally, recognised Estonia's independence on Sept. 4, along with that of Latvia and Lithuania. Mr. Levy had expressed hope for future diplomatic ties with the three Baltic states.

Retired Turkish general shot dead

ISTANBUL (R) — Three militants of a Turkish leftwing group have shot dead a retired Turkish general in his Istanbul home, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

General Adnan Ersoz, 74, was killed Sunday by a single shot to his head after his wife, who opened the door to the assailants, passed out when she was sprayed in the face by a special gas.

Istanbul police chief Mehmet Agar told the agency.

An anonymous caller claiming to represent the group called Istanbul newspapers and said the armed revolutionary units faction of the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) group had killed Gen. Ersoz, the agency reported.

Gen. Ersoz's murder took place a week before parliamentary elections due on Oct. 20.

Dev-Sol is Turkey's most ruthless extremist group which has claimed responsibility for killing three other Turkish generals this year.

"Ersoz was killed in return for the martyrs of July 12 and for the general elections play," the caller said.

Istanbul police, in a series of raids on July 12, killed 10 Dev-Sol members and captured 12 before a visit to Turkey by U.S. President George Bush on July 20.

Mr. Agar said the two men and a woman who attacked Gen. Ersoz had fled in a car later found abandoned in a district close to Gotepe, a residential area on the city's Asian side, where Gen. Ersoz lived.

The group has claimed responsibility for the killing of five policemen in Istanbul last week in two separate ambushes.

President Turgut Ozal has said the killings of the policemen were aimed at creating chaos before next Sunday's elections.

Two policemen were killed and another was wounded while on patrol early Friday and three policemen were shot dead on Thursday night. Two gunmen were killed in an ensuing clash.

Twenty policemen have been shot dead and 14 wounded in ambushes this year in Istanbul.

In April, retired General Memduh Usluturk was killed in his Istanbul home by Dev-Sol members.

Former General Ismail Selen was killed in his car dealers' office in Ankara on May 23.

Gen. Temel Cingoz, commander of gendarmerie forces in the southern Adana province, was shot by Dev-Sol members as he left home in his car on the same day. He died two days later.

Gen. Ersoz, a four-star army officer, had served as deputy chief of staff and as commander of Turkey's elite First Army based in Istanbul.

He also headed Turkey's National Intelligence Service (MIT) until 1979 when he retired. A former MIT deputy chief was killed by the Dev-Sol in Istanbul last year.

The series of attacks against Turkish officials appear to be a part of systematic revenge campaign against security forces by Dev-Sol.

The group has also claimed responsibility for the killing of two American civilians in Turkey this year and a score of bombings against Western consulates, airline offices and companies during the Gulf war.

Dev-Sol, which emerged during an upsurge of violence in the 1970s, was suppressed after a 1980 army coup but revived after several of its leaders escaped from jail in 1987.

Tehran denies it will recall guards from Lebanon

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Vice-President Hassan Habibzadeh said Monday denied reports that Tehran was planning to withdraw hundreds of its Revolutionary Guards from Lebanon.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Habibzadeh as saying in his weekly press conference that reports in Lebanese papers about Iran agreeing to withdraw the Revolutionary Guards were "without foundation."

He said the reports were meant to divert public opinion about the question of Palestine at a time when Tehran is preparing to convene an international conference later this month to back the Palestinian struggle against Israel.

Some 3,000 Revolutionary Guards were dispatched to Lebanon in 1982 to help fight the Israeli army, which invaded in June.

Al Nahar, Lebanon's leading daily newspaper, said Saturday that Tehran had officially notified Beirut of its decision to recall the Revolutionary Guards.

Confirming that report, the weekly Al Shiraaz said the guards would be moved out in batches, with a minimal number staying to offer unspecified social services to Lebanon's Shiite Muslim community.

The Revolutionary Guards have added muscle to Shiite Muslim militias and their attacks against Israel.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Velayati to visit Moscow soon

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will be visiting Moscow shortly, the Tehran Times reported Monday. The English-language daily quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying in an interview that economic ties between the two neighbouring countries would be further boosted after Mr. Velayati's trip. Mr. Besharati declined to give a specific date for Mr. Velayati's visit, the Times said. Iranian officials have been closely watching events in the Soviet Union. Islamic Iran is especially interested in the fate of the Soviet Union's southern republics, home to some 60 million Muslims. After its 1979 Islamic revolution, and during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, Iran was denied access to Western arms and technology. It turned to Moscow to fulfill many of its needs. Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani signed a \$6 billion industrial and defence deal with Moscow during a visit in June.

6 Egyptians killed clearing Kuwait mines

CAIRO (R) — Six Egyptian soldiers have been killed clearing mines in Kuwait, the Egyptian News Agency MENA reported Monday. It gave no details of how the six died Saturday but said: "The incident occurred in the Al Salma area on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border." Egyptian forces joined the U.S.-led coalition that fought Iraq's army in the emirate last February. Together with other allied troops, Egyptian soldiers have been helping to destroy hundreds of thousands of mines and unexploded shells left over from the six-week war.

Food shortages in central Afghanistan

KABUL (R) — Rebel-controlled central provinces of Afghanistan are facing serious food shortages, a United Nations team returning from the region said at the weekend. "There has been a significant crop failure with some villages experiencing almost total failure and others down to well under half of their normal yield," Antonio Domini, head of the U.N. aid co-ordinating agency UNOCHA, said in an interview. "Our team saw several trucks full of people who had sold all their possessions heading towards Quetta (in neighbouring Pakistan) and hoping to go on to Iran eventually," he said. Many people had been unable to store wheat for the coming winter, which tends to be longer and harder in the central Hazarajat region than in much of Afghanistan. Mr. Domini said the crop failures had been caused by a combination of floods and a fungus called rust. "We are assessing the situation but geographic, political and ethnic factors make it one of the hardest places to reach in the country," he said. "We hope to get some assistance in there." The area is mountainous and one of the most isolated in Afghanistan. Heavy snowfalls make roads in and out of Hazarajat impassable towards the end of November.

Two killed in Aswan fight

CAIRO (AP) — A group of suspected Muslim extremists killed a Christian jeweller in the southern city of Aswan and lost one of their own men in a fight using chains and swords, police sources said Sunday. The incident is the second of its kind in less than a month, following shortly after violence in a Cairo suburb left 18 people wounded, two churches burnt and several shops ransacked. Police sources said a group of about 15 masked people Saturday evening attacked a number of jewellery shops of Christian Copts with chains and swords, killing Ashraf Ishaq Abdul Shahid in his store. They were taking revenge for a Muslim woman whom Mr. Abdul Shahid had accused of stealing a gold ring from his shop. In the ensuing fight, Mr. Abdul Shahid and one of the assailants were killed. The rest fled and police are searching for them. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the assailants were members of the Muslim Brotherhood who decided to attack Mr. Abdul Shahid and Coptic-owned stores after a woman complained to them of his accusation. Violence between Christians and Muslims erupted late last month in Cairo's densely populated quarter of Imbaba over charges of theft and abuse by both sides. Muslim extremists attacked two churches with explosives, and started fires in four Christian-owned shops.

Pakistani premier heads for pilgrimage

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left Monday for a pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca en route to the Commonwealth summit in the Zimbabwe capital Harare. Mr. Sharif will hold talks with Saudi leaders during his overnight stay in the kingdom, officials said. Pakistani army chief General Asif Nawaz left with him for the pilgrimage. Officials said Mr. Sharif would hold talks with several leaders during the Commonwealth summit starting Wednesday, including Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Quake shakes southern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake shook the city of Larestan in Iran's southern Fars, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the quake struck at 15:00 p.m. (17:38 GMT) Sunday, and registered 4 on the open-ended Richter scale. There were no reports about possible damage or casualties, IRNA said. Another quake, measuring 3.8 on the Richter scale, shook the city of Khonj, near Larestan, early Sunday, IRNA reported.

Turkey pulls out of NATO exercise

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has pulled out of a NATO exercise after the Atlantic alliance turned down its request for ships to carry out wargames in the Aegean Sea, a senior Turkish military source said Monday. The Aegean has been at the heart of a long-running territorial dispute between Turkey and Greece, also a member of NATO. "Turkey pulled its Fatih frigate and fuel supply ship out of the deterrent force exercise on Sunday," said the source, who asked not to be identified. The source said Turkey had wanted the ships to spend three days exercising in the Aegean between the Turkish port of Izmir and the Greek island of Crete but NATO agreed to a Greek request that ships should pass through the sea and resume their exercises to the west of Crete.

Palestinian leaders say little progress achieved in Baker talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Two leading Palestinian peace negotiators returned from Washington Sunday night saying they made little progress on resolving the final obstacles to a U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Faisal Al Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, who live in the occupied Arab territories, met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss how Palestinians would be represented at the conference, the thorniest issue plaguing Mr. Baker's efforts to convene peace talks.

"There was not enough progress," Mr. Hussein told Reuters.

He said three main problems remained — self-determination for Palestinians, Jewish settlements and Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinians want the United States to endorse their right to self-determination and to press Israel to freeze rapidly expanding Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

Israel wants to bar Arabs from East Jerusalem from the talks so as not to call into question its claim of sovereignty over the entire city.

For Palestinians, Arab East Jerusalem is the centre of their social, economic and political life. They consider it the site of their future capital should they achieve an independent state.

The Palestinians, who have waged a nearly four-year-old intifada against Israel rule, feel bitter that the United States has adopted most of Israel's terms for the conference.

They want U.S. assurances the conference will be based on the principle of Israel trading land for peace as outlined in U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

But Israel has said the conference will fail if Arab participants press for territorial compromise. Palestinian leaders have never said publicly they would attend in the conference, which Washington hopes to convene this month. Mr. Baker warned them on his last visit to the region that they had the

most to gain from participating and the most to lose from staying away.

The secretary of state embarked on his eighth Middle East peace mission on Sunday, hoping to finalise details for the conference, due to open by the end of the month.

Asked if Palestinians would take part, Mr. Hussein said: "There is no problem from the Palestinian side. Obstacles that Israel put in the front can create these problems."

Mr. Hussein confirmed that Mr. Baker had asked Palestinian representatives to go to Jordan this week to discuss the composition of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Arafat seeks Algerian support

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Sunday sought the support of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid for Palestinian efforts to coordinate an Arab stand over the Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Arafat told journalists after meeting President Benjedid and Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi: "We reject the Israeli conditions and we remain constant to the proclamations made by the Palestine National Council (PNC) during its last session in Algiers."

The PNC welcomed U.S. efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference but did not commit Palestinians to attend.

Mr. Arafat said he had asked Algeria to support the Palestinians in the efforts for Arab coordination to define a joint position with the aim of standing up to Israel and the challenges imposed by the latest developments.

He said he had briefed the Algerian president on talks between Palestinians and the Soviet Union — co-sponsor of the proposed conference — and meetings between Palestinian leaders and Egypt and Jordan to find a joint position "above all, for the envisaged conference."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

12:30 Cinema
13:30 Cinema
14:30 News in French
15:15 French varieties
16:30 News in Arabic
17:30 News in Arabic
18:30 Who's the Boss
19:30 Our House
20:30 News in English
21:30 French feature film: "En Tournant l'angle"

PRAYER TIMES

06:07 Fajr
07:34 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:21 Dzohr
14:37 'Asr
17:49 Maghrib
18:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swellish Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance of scattered showers of rain, especially in the eastern regions of the country. Winds will be northerly to westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.
Min./max. temp.
Amman 13 / 22

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeem 891256
Dr. Zaki Zaidan 638991
Dr. Yousef Al Fagih 657989
Firm pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yasouh pharmacy 644045
Shameel pharmacy 676650
REBDO:
Dr. Tawfik Al Bayyari ()
Al Shams pharmacy (73325)

EMERGENCIES

Road Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Recess 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 60821
Hotel Complaints 628600
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 891467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 696381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 812613/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642818
Al-Jish Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jahid Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amn 636140
Palestine, Shamsal 664174
Shamsal Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Muham Hospital 687278
The Islamic Abkhaz 6612737
Al-Ahli, Abdull 6641646
Indian, Al-Muham 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marita 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6024020
Amal Hospital 674135
Zarga Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)905600
Bee Sun Hospital (09)986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:20 Agaba (RJ)
06:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:50 Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
16:00 New York, Montreal (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Moscow (SV)
12:30 Rome (AZ)
19:35 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Bucharest (RO)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
08:15 Brussels, London (RJ)
08:35 Belgrade (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)
19:30 Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 Athens (RJ)
20:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Belgrade (RJ)
14:00 Moscow (SV)
19:20 Tripoli (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple 120 / 200
Banana 300 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 350 / 500
Beet 170 / 120
Cabbage 250 / 300
Cauliflower 250 / 300
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 220 / 180
Garlic 300 / 800
Grapes 300 / 600
Lemon 300 / 400
Lemon 250 / 200
Mango (large) 150 / 100
Mango (small) 320 / 260
Onion 350 / 800
Onion (dry) 150 / 120
Pepper (hot) 320 / 260
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 250
Potato 300 / 250
Sage 600 / 300
Spinach 250 / 200
Sweet melon 220 / 180
Tomatoes 270 / 220
Watermelon 150 / 40

Jordan, Egypt announce project to interconnect national electricity grids

AMMAN (J.T.) — Electricity authorities in Jordan and Egypt Monday jointly announced that they are embarking on an electrical interconnection project between Jordan and Egypt and have invited tenders for the overhead transmission lines involved in the project.

The Egyptian Electricity Authority (EEA) and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announced that Jordan and Egypt have jointly obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) to finance the project, which entails linking the national grids of the two countries, the announcement said.

The announcement was for the installation of overhead transmission lines between Egyptian coastal towns and the Jordanian port city of Aqaba.

It followed a statement in Cairo two days ago that the Egyptian minister of energy and electricity who said that Egypt was embarking on an electrical interconnection project between Egypt and countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The minister expected that the linking of the national grids will take up to five years to complete.

Under the project, Egypt's national grid will be connected with those of Jordan, Syria, Turkey and later with Europe

at an estimated cost of \$150 million. The grid will also be connected to those in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco and later Italy via Tunisia and Spain at the cost of \$170 million.

JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah told the Jordan Times that work on the linkage with Jordan was expected to start by the middle of 1992. He said the deadline for tenders to be submitted by various bidders is Jan. 26, 1992.

JEA sources said that process of linkage with Jordan entails laying a 12 kilometre, 400 kilovolt line from Aqaba to be linked to a 12-kilometre

long submarine cable to reach the Sinai coast where it will be linked to a 290 kilometre, 500 kilovolt line into the Egyptian territory.

Jordan and Egypt agreed on the linkage in 1986 and later in 1989 the two countries, plus Syria, Turkey and Iraq, reached agreement on power grid interconnection in the region and to promote cooperation among themselves in energy related fields.

The five countries chose Amman to serve as the headquarters of a technical committee comprising delegates from the five states to plan projects in the course of carrying out the programme.

Defence lawyers protest alleged torture of militant group

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a dramatic development in the ongoing trial of a militant group, Prophet Mohammad's Army, lawyers defending 13 of the defendants announced they were abandoning their task and walked out of the room to back demands for a medical examination of their clients.

The 15 lawyers, led by Zuhair Abul Ragheb, alleged that the defendants were tortured while undergoing interrogation in prison and demanded that a doctor be appointed to examine them.

Altogether, 18 are standing trial for alleged bombings, fires and plotting to assassinate government officials and foreign diplomats.

All the defendants at last Thursday's session pleaded not guilty of the charges levelled against them, reversing their earlier statements taken under interrogation.

The lawyers were quoted as saying that they insist that a doctor conduct a medical examination on the accused, who claim they had been tortured. They also said that they could not carry on with their mission if the court does not respond favourably to their demand.

The heavy penalties awaiting the accused, if proven guilty, range between execution to 'life imprisonment with hard labour.'

Before adjourning the session until next Thursday, Judge Youssef Faouri served notice that the defendants should arrange for lawyers to defend them before Thursday and failing to do that, he said, State Security Court, which is now trying them, would appoint lawyers for them.

Asma Khadr, one of the defence lawyers, said she saw "fingerprints pulled out of the defendants' hands as well as signs of beatings and torture all over the body."

Ms. Khadr, a human rights activist, told the Associated Press that defence lawyers had repeatedly asked the court to investigate the evident signs of torture, but the demand was not met.

proved that the group was tortured, then our defendants' confession to police would prove false and illegal since it was extracted by force," said Ms. Khadr, a member of the London-based Amnesty International.

In a videotaped interrogation viewed by the Associated Press in September, the 18 men confessed to a bombing that seriously wounded an intelligence officer, who security officials identified as Lt. Issa Naji.

The group also said it set a fire that destroyed the French Cultural Centre in Amman in March and that it burned down two supermarkets in the city, apparently because the stores sold alcohol.

Authorities arrested 151 of the previously unknown group on July 15 after a number of terrorist acts around the country. All but the 18 men on trial were later released because of insufficient evidence.

In July, government officials said the group attempted to kill 12 people, mainly security officers and civilians.

The officials said the group was buying, selling and smuggling weapons and training elements to launch criminal acts aimed at undermining Jordan's security and stability, including assassination of officials and diplomats.

They claimed that the group had links with Muslim guerrillas in Afghanistan and that some of its leaders were trained there.

They said that the group was linked to Abdullah Azzam, a militant Jordanian Muslim leader who was expelled from Jordan in 1985 and set up an Islamic guerrilla group with training bases in Afghanistan. An unidentified gunman killed Mr. Azzam in Afghanistan in 1987.

Yanalk Ramzi, also a Jordanian, succeeded Mr. Azzam as leader and recruited Sameeh Abu Zeidan, a Palestinian physician from the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Hebron, to head the group in Jordan. Mr. Abu Zeidan is one of the 18 on trial. Mr. Ramzi is believed in Afghanistan — the Associated Press contributed to this report.

Arabiyat, acknowledging differences exist, commends King's address

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday described His Majesty King Hussein's nationwide address last Saturday in which he announced Jordan's participation in the proposed peace process as comprehensive and reflects the Monarch's full awareness of the fast moving developments and the internal and external challenges.

The King's address was characterised with clarity based on a sense of responsibility and objectivity, offering deep analysis of the internal and external situations, Dr. Arabiyat said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The King has referred to all the dimensions that led to the present situation and said the efforts for peace were as important as war. For this reason it requires ample preparations and careful calculations of all the factors which would bolster the Arab stand vis-a-vis the challenges, Dr. Arabiyat added.

The enemy we are facing has a

special character noted by treachery which cannot be overlooked and there must be full awareness of this evil nature, Dr. Arabiyat said. He warned that the Israeli enemy was advocating ideas which totally contradict the Arab parties concepts.

The peace process requires deep thinking and every effort to back the wise leadership of this country, Dr. Arabiyat said. He said he was confident that the Jordanian people will remain united regardless of the various different individual views and is sure that the Kingdom will stand fast in the face of all the challenges facing the Arab Nation.

Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Information Department Yasser Abed Rabbo said the King's address agrees completely with the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions adopted recently in Algeria.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Abed Rabbo said the contents of the address were based on the history of suffering through which Jordan, along with

the Palestinian people, had lived. "Ahead of us lies a great political battle and the obstacles standing in our way are very numerous; we do not want to spread illusory optimism and I think this was the spirit which directed the King's speech," he said.

The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Monday voiced absolute support for the King's announcement about Jordan's participation in the coming peace conference, describing it as another important contribution towards winning the peace battle.

The announcement from the leader was characterised with courage and is designed to help regain usurped Arab rights and land, the AYF said in a statement.

The statement added that the AYF had followed with deep interest the various details of the King's address and considered it as a historic document because of its comprehensiveness, especially with regard to the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.



Saad Hayel Surour

Fourth stage of road construction completed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fourth phase of the Amman-Maour-Dead Sea highway has been completed and Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour is expected to inaugurate the road at a ceremony to be held Wednesday, according to an announcement by the Minister of Public Works Monday.

The fourth phase entailed constructing a four-lane 13.5 kilometres stretch and a two-lane five kilometres stretch at a total cost of JD 7.5 million took two years to complete, the statement said.

The first and second phase of the project stretching nearly 11.5 kilometres, were completed sometime ago at the cost of JD 6.5 million.

Work on the third phase of the 41 kilometres highway began in June of 1990 and is expected to be completed early in 1993, according to the ministry. It said that the third phase entails building a four-lane 7.5 kilometres stretch and a two-lane six-kilometre stretch of road which has been financed through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The construction of the highway upgrades the original Amman-Dead Sea road to a four lane highway which avoids areas of recurrent landslides on the existing road, particularly near the village of Adasayah.

When completed, the highway will eliminate dangerous curves along the 1,400 metre drop from the highlands and will accommodate heavy traffic which has been a problem in the area, especially in the winter.

According to the Ministry of Public Works, the new highway shortens travel time and provides a safer route for trucks delivering agricultural produce to the local markets from the Jordan Valley farmlands.

Jordanian chamber delegation in Turkey to discuss economic cooperation

ISTANBUL (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Jordan Chamber of Industry has gone to Istanbul following trade and economy talks with Iranian officials in Tehran.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the delegation will sign with the Turkish Chambers of Industry and Trade a number of protocols designed to boost Jordanian-Turkish economic and trade cooperation. It said the protocol will also provide for exchange of expertise and information as well as visits by industrialists to Turkey and Jordan from the two countries.

The Istanbul Chamber of Industry and Trade has prepared a programme for the Jordanian delegation's tour of industrial organisations and economic institutions as well as industrial fairs currently being held in the Turkish city.

The Jordanian delegation, led by Chamber President Khalidoun Abu Hassan, had held talks in Tehran aimed at boosting Jordanian-Iranian relations.

Accompanied by a number of officials from the Chamber of Industry, Mr. Abu Hassan spent four days in Tehran to discuss means of promoting trade and industrial cooperation at the invitation of the president of the Iranian Chamber of Industry, Trade and Mining.

Petra said that the Jordanian and Iranian sides explored the prospects for establishing Iranian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Tehran as well as organising trade fairs in the two capitals.

The visit to Tehran followed last month's trip there by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb, who reached agreement with Iranian ministers on a number of procedures designed to open the way for cooperation between the private and public sectors in the two countries.



Khalidoun Abu Hassan

that a reception will be held at the RCC to be followed by the opening of an exhibition of posters and paintings as well as printed materials. There will also be film shows depicting Amnesty International activities around the world in defence of human rights and a seminar together with folklore performance.

Similar ceremonies on Amnesty International's 31st anniversary are expected in various regions of the world, which groups one million individuals affiliated to the organisation in more than 150 countries.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and the abolition of torture and the death penalty.

Amnesty International issues publications and reports on political imprisonment, torture and execution around the world.

Housing Bank donates JD 3,650 to university

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank has donated JD 3,650 to the University of Jordan to help finance the education of eight students of the faculties of medicine, engineering and the humanities.

The announcement was made by University President Fawzi Gharrabeh, who received the cheque for the sum from the Housing Bank.

Dr. Gharrabeh said that the university board will allocate the contributions to distinguished students in the three faculties in

implementation of a plan agreed on with the Housing Bank. The Housing Bank, he said, this year allocated funds to be used to finance 21 scholarships in Jordanian universities.

Also Monday, the University of Jordan witnessed the opening of a week-long programme of cultural activities organised by the university in cooperation with the Libyan University of Nasser.

The weeklong event comprises cultural seminars, documentary film shows, plays and folklore performances.

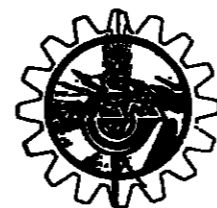
WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamsoun, Khalid Jirous and Mohammed Hameed Albuluk at Abdul Hameed Shamsoun Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Issam Khayyat, Mohammed Abdallah, Kister Mohammed, Ali Mandawil, Khalid Wahl and Husein Ali at Baladina Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safway).
- ★ Art exhibition by Hazem Al Bustani at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Nuri Rebeheh entitled "Music in Colours" at Goethe Institute.

FILM

- ★ Mozart opera film entitled "Magic Flute" at Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.



السلطنة الهاشمية

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN THE ARAB POTASH COMPANY LIMITED POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROJECT NO. 30-4857 (APC-25/90) PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

The Arab Potash Company Limited (APC) of Amman, Jordan plans to expand production capacity by 400,000 tonnes per year. The facilities will be located on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Safi, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200km north of the port of Aqaba.

The Potash Production Expansion Project is currently in the design phase. Construction is expected to commence in August 1992, and is targeted for completion in January 1994. The contract value is expected to be around US\$30 million.

Construction of the project will be performed through a general contract which will include the following classes of work:

Temporary construction facilities, temporary housing and messing facilities, site preparation, in-plant road construction, foundations and structures, structural steel supply and erection. Installation of mechanical equipment such as thickeners, crystallisers, centrifuges, pumps, agitators, rotary dryer and cooler, conveyors, elevator, flotation cells. Installation of electrical switchgear, transformers, supply and installation of cables. Installation of instrumentation and control systems. Supply and installation of piping system, tanks painting and protective coatings.

The contract will be based on FIDIC conditions of contract, and Jordanian laws and regulations will apply.

The Arab Potash Company invites companies capable of performing the full spectrum of Civil/Structural, Mechanical, Electrical & Instrumentation Works to apply for the pre-qualification booklet. The pre-qualification booklet may be obtained from either of the following:

Mr. Issa Gammoh,
Projects Manager,
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.,
P.O.Box 1470,
Amman - Jordan

2. Mr. Dermot Gannon,
Project Manager,
Jacobs International Inc.,
Merrion House,
Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, Ireland.

Fax No.: 962-3-377125/Site.
Fax No.: 962-6-674416/Amman H.O.
Telex No.: 21683 Potash Jo.
Tel. No.: 666165/6 - Amman
665116 or 03-377121 - Site

Fax No.: 353-1-2695497
Telex No.: 30295 JCBS-EI
Tel. No.: 353-1-2695686

The Arab Potash Company reserves the right to investigate all prospective companies and reject any application without assignment of any reason for the rejection.

The closing date for receipt of completed pre-qualification documents by APC and Jacobs is December 10th, 1991.

A.Y. Ensour,
Managing Director,
The Arab Potash Company Ltd.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الصحف الجordanية المستقلة التي تصدر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Times advertising department.

A pill of hope?

AS HIS Majesty the King held talks with U.S. Secretary of States James Baker last night, the issue of Palestinian representation in the proposed peace conference was being looked at and debated passionately on every level, but especially by the Palestinians themselves. The bad news for this people, which historically has suffered the most, is that it has to swallow the most bitter pill in order to find out whether there can be hope to see light at the end of the tunnel. The good news is that this great and honourable people is finally ready and willing to make the sacrifice on behalf of everybody else in the area. What this means in practical terms is that the PLO's Central Council, which will meet in Tunis on Wednesday, will say yes to Mr. Baker even though he and the Israelis agree on little that can be paid back to the Palestinians, now or at any time in the future.

The secretary of state has worked so diligently and sincerely on the U.S. effort to bring Arabs and Israelis together to the negotiating table. He must know by now that apart from their conditional acceptance to sit down with the Arabs, the Israelis have employed every trick in the book to further humiliate and antagonise the Palestinians. For the PLO leadership, the West Bank and Gaza leaders and the Palestinian people as a whole to rise above their wounds and go along with the American effort, therefore, is no small accomplishment. President George Bush and Mr. Baker will be doing themselves, the Israelis, the Arabs and the international community a great favour if they will take this as a message of peace rather than weakness in undertaking the remaining mammoth task of peace-making from this point onward.

It may well be true that this is the lowest point in contemporary Arab history and based on this the Arabs want to make peace with their enemies because there is no alternative. But the point can equally strongly be asserted that without Arab willingness to give peace to their neighbours, the Israelis will never be able to have it; nor will this important region of the world ever enjoy stability and security. There is always the option of continued violence, bloodshed and hatred for those who believe in the righteousness of their cause and are willing to suffer and die for it. We do have these people in the Arab World today, just as much as the Israelis have them. What goal is dearer to maximalists and extremists on either side of the fence than making the conflict between Arabs and Israelis perpetual and eternal? That is the crucial question that still has to be answered.

Mr. Baker knows very well the amount of pressure that has had to be exerted on the Palestinians and the rest of the Arabs to endorse his peace initiative. He is no doubt also aware that an equal amount of pressure has to be applied in the opposite direction, specifically on the Israeli body politic, in order to create the needed peace equilibrium.

He will certainly be faced with tough Israeli resistance and the all-too-known Likud intransigence. He, however, should be able to handle it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIANS will go to the peace conference in the same spirit as they went to war before in defence of the Arab Nation, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The Jordanians are going to the peace conference with the courage that has always characterised them and their leader to whom they have entrusted their confidence and their support, said the paper. The Jordanians are the worst affected party by the war and its consequences, and it is they who realise the meaning of war and loss as they had fought the wars against the common enemy, the paper said. It said that those Arabs who had never entered the war and who view the peace conference or other developments from their narrow selfish views and interests, and those who are trying to outbid others in matters related to peace, are not entitled to have a say as they had never been involved in the region's events. His Majesty King Hussein has told his people that Jordan was going to the conference for the sake of ensuring the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and to confront the enemy which has been refusing to respect international legitimacy, the paper said. Jordan is going to the conference because there is a chance now that U.N. resolutions will be implemented and there is an opportunity to help the Palestinians regain their rights, the paper stressed. It expressed hope that the conference will put an end to Israel's arrogance and force it to comply with international law and U.N. resolutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday criticised Egypt for refraining from taking part in a meeting by Arab parties directly involved in the confrontation with Israel and said that it is in Egypt's interest that such meeting be held. The Egyptian government had felt itself isolated after signing the separate peace treaty with Israel more than 10 years ago, but Egypt could not have real peace with the Israelis so far because of the general enmity between the Arabs and Israel, said Mahmoud Rimawi. We are surprised to see Egypt indifferent to such a meeting that would group delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the PLO and Egypt to unify Arab stands with regard to the coming peace conference, the writer said. He said that Arab parties should meet to work out a joint formula to present to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and to confront the common enemy with one voice at the negotiating table. The writer said that joint Arab stand resulting from a five-party conference preceding the parley with Israel can indeed give the Arabs a strong weapon with which to win peace. Refraining from taking part in the parley, he said, can only mean a lack of desire to back the Palestinians in their bid to arrive at a just peace ensuring their rights and their lands.

Palestinians are suspicious of Israeli intentions

By Daoud Kuttab

JERUSALEM — Something weird is taking place among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite the tireless efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to get a peace conference to convene in October, Palestinians seriously doubt that real peace is around the corner. There are at least five credible reasons for Palestinian suspicion of Israeli intentions:

— **Israel's refusal to recognise Palestinians as people:**
Behind the Israeli preconditions aimed at excluding the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinians from outside the occupied territories and from East Jerusalem is a denial of the existence of a unique Palestinian national identity and in fact the existence of a Palestinian people. It is true that the days of Golda Meir's "who are the Palestinians?" are gone, but Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refuses to recognise that Palestinians are a people. To Mr. Shamir Palestinians are only those (1.5 million) Arabs living in what he calls "Judea, Samaria and Gaza." A Palestinian who was absent from these areas in 1967, or failed to renew his travel documents in time or is taking refuge in any place around the world doesn't fit in Mr. Shamir's category of Palestinians. An Ethiopian or a Russian who has a Jewish mother, even if he has no connection to the Holy Land, is part of the "Jewish people", but a Palestinian who went to Kuwait for work or was expelled by Israel for his political activities is no longer a Palestinian. This Israeli position is what is forcing the Palestinian team meeting with Mr. Baker to require at least a U.S. recognition that all five million Palestinians are a people and, as any people, are entitled to their inalienable right to self-determination.

— **Israel's practices on the ground:**
On the eve of a historic peace conference one would expect the parties intending to attend the conference to show a different

attitude to the other side. The PLO chairman has more than once publicly extended his hand for peace with the Israelis. For its part, the Israeli government continues its unilateral and illegal policies in areas it has no right to. Contrary to the Geneva Conventions and to simple morality, Israel keeps stealing Palestinian land (it is called confiscation for public use) and then builds on this stolen land exclusive buildings for Jews. The Israeli occupation army continues to have the West Bank's leading university closed for the fourth year straight and its soldiers continue to shoot at unarmed Palestinian protesters, often expressing their patriotic aspirations by painting graffiti on their own walls. Even the provocative actions of some extremist Israeli settlers couldn't take place without the permissive government policy towards Jewish offenders and, at times, the protection and financial support by governmental agencies to these same settlers.

— **Israel's insistence on advance approval of the Palestinian negotiators:**

This is the most ridiculous of all the Israeli demands. How can Palestinians trust the Israeli intentions if they continue their insistence that the names of Palestinians must first have their approval? British Prime Minister John Major is quite right when he notes that this will mean Israel will negotiate with "stooges." The logic would dictate that if Israel was in fact interested in real peace it would demand the representatives of Palestinians to be elements that can sign and deliver a peace treaty. Imagine if Palestinians said they would not talk to an Israeli representative who had come to Israel from an Arab country, or if they said they would only negotiate with an Israeli who was born here or had immigrated before 1925.

— **Israel's refusal to deal with crucial issues:**
According to the current Israeli logic there are certain issues

that are not negotiable. If the aim of the peace conference is to reach a lasting solution every problem between Palestinians and Israelis must be tackled and dealt with. By insisting to ignore certain issues Israel is either saying that there are no problems or is saying that it doesn't care to solve them. Otherwise how can we understand Israel's refusal to talk about Jerusalem? Is there a "same person around the world, including in Israel, that can say there is no problem in Jerusalem? Similarly, can Israel expect the problem of the Palestinian refugees to disappear?

— **Israel's refusal to allow Palestinians to talk about their future:**

Even though the proposed peace conference is less than a month away the Israeli military authorities have not relaxed or reversed a single military order that deals with political expression, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. Palestinians outside the occupied territories are not allowed by Israel to be involved in negotiations, those in the occupied territories are not allowed to talk about their own future and then Israel expects Palestinians to believe it wants peace! In South Africa the government released political prisoners, including Mandela, and unbanned the ANC long before peace talks began. Israeli jails are still full of Palestinian political prisoners and more are arrested every day for membership or support of the PLO.

The announced plan of the U.S.-USSR-sponsored conference is to go to the peace conference without any side putting in advance what the final solution will be. Palestinians and Arabs are willing to discuss all issues, but they can't do that if the existence of Palestinians as a people is denied, if they are not allowed to choose their representatives, and if they are not to discuss some of the central elements of the conflict.

Taming the Arabs—the politics of defeat

By Khalil Barhoum

AFTER Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war and the attendant decline of collective Arab bargaining power vis-a-vis Israel, the Arab World today is confronted with a new set of political realities almost like those faced by the vanquished Japanese and Germans at the end of World War II. American influence in the region now seems ostensibly unchallenged, particularly since the demise of the Soviet Union as a global superpower. Regional powers, such as Syria, which for a long time have espoused achieving military parity with Israel are currently in political and military limbo after losing their much-vaunted Soviet patronage.

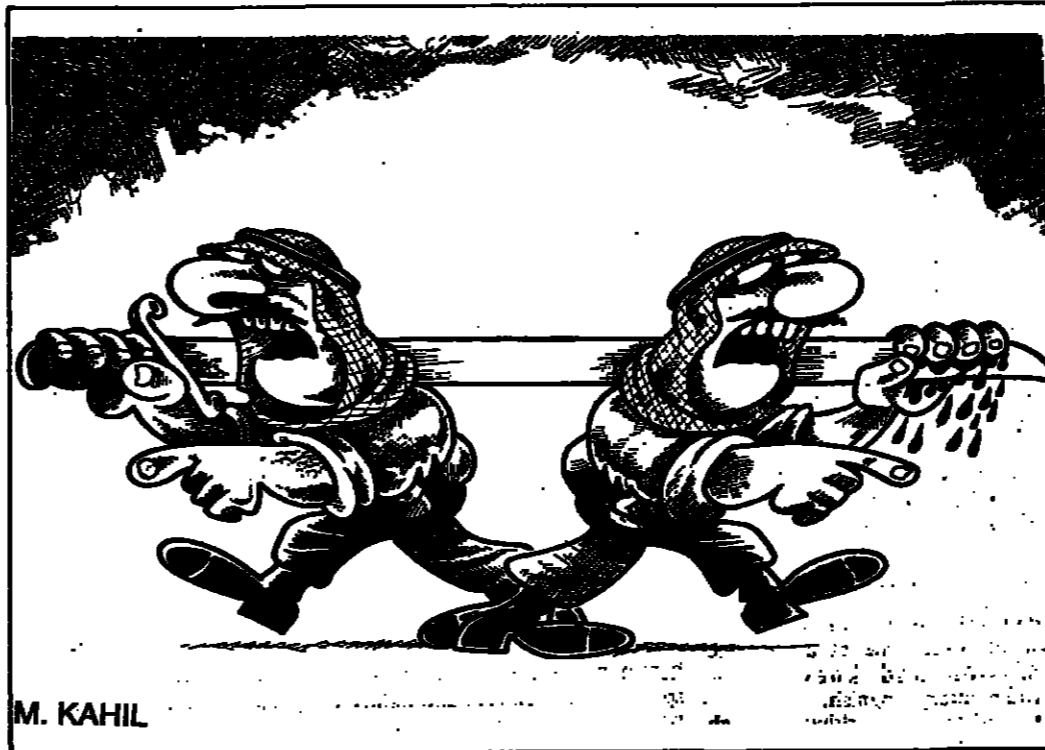
In order to minimise opposition to its own and Israel's power, the U.S. has been assiduously courting the Arab regimes, including those which did not endorse the American military excursion in the Gulf. So far, the only discordant, albeit subdued, noises protesting America's uncontested hegemony in the region emanate mainly from Libya and non-Arab Iran. Libya, perhaps politically and militarily insignificant in the overall Arab-Israeli equation, is nevertheless being courted by the U.S. along with the rest of Arab North Africa which, as yet, has been largely pro-Palestinian both on the official and popular levels. And Iran, which senses impending political encirclement and isolation after Syria's recent apparent defection to the U.S. camp, is nonetheless being wooed by the U.S.

There is no doubt that the U.S. military victory over Iraq and the Soviet Union's almost total prostration as a superpower have contributed immeasurably to the emergence of the U.S. as the sole political power broker in the area. But achieving this unrivalled position so swiftly and with very little or no opposition across the Arab World must be attributed also to other less identifiable factors. These in fact have more to do with the necessary groundwork that was diligently laid down by regional players — especially over the past decade — to facilitate such an undisputed American posture, with the role of the Egyptian government throughout this process intriguing.

Egypt's role

Since the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1979, the U.S. and Israel have attempted to use Egypt more or less as a Trojan Horse through which to assault and weaken the collective Arab will to confront Israel's naked colonialist designs in the region. The resulting political and military isolation of Egypt from the Arab World, made bearable only with the help of heavily conditioned U.S. financial infusions which have proved largely counter-productive, has enabled Israel to pursue its agenda in the region without much Arab resistance. Needless to say, while Egypt became more compliant towards U.S. and Israeli policies in the area during the 1980s, Iraq's ever expanding martial prowess by contrast posed a serious question to them after the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988.

Following the disastrous consequences of the Gulf war, the official Egyptian role has grown even bolder, and certainly more pronounced in its championing of the American timetable. The Egyptian government has notice-



ably shifted from its prior posture of coy and passive acquiescence to Israel's unpalatable political demands to active support of certain familiar Israeli refrains, such as ending the Arab economic boycott before the start of peace negotiations. Its support of the Israeli position has been further extended to include attempts at neutralising any Arab opposition to prospective peace talks engineered by the U.S. on Israeli terms. Such was the case when President Mubarak recently visited Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, who was also cajoled by the U.S. secretary of state in the form of an open invitation to Libya to join as an observer in the proposed Middle East peace conference. Likewise, sustained Egyptian pressure on Syria to modify its position on the question of direct negotiations with Israel finally bore fruit when Syria removed its objections to bilateral talks with Israel, in spite of the latter's humiliating insistence that the Golan Heights will not be on the agenda.

As if that was not enough, Syria also helped deliver Lebanon when the Lebanese foreign minister was dispatched to Cairo to meet Secretary of State Baker and declare Lebanon's willingness to engage in bilateral talks with Israel. On the other hand, since the end of the Gulf war — during which Egypt played an instrumental part in garnishing and facilitating the U.S. role — the Arab Gulf states have shown increasing acceptance of the Egyptian approach towards Israel, a position which only a few years ago was deemed by most Arab League members to be an unmitigated and needless surrender to Zionism.

Israel's terms of surrender

Observing all the preconditions Israel has placed recently on the Arab — with full U.S. backing — before agreeing to enter into bilateral, face-to-face negotiations with them, one is left with the abiding impression of a victorious party merely dictating its terms of surrender to the vanquished. Otherwise, one is at a loss to explain the position of those Arab regimes — essentially the driving force behind the Gulf war — that have consented to the abdication of a U.N. role in Arab-Israeli negotiations when, in fact, it was primarily the moral force of the U.N. that was invoked to justify the attack on

Israel. The American-Israeli memorandum of understanding drafted recently to entice Israel to join talks with the Arab countries is replete with unusually demeaning Israeli stipulations. Its provisions lead one to the inescapable conclusion that the U.S. is dealing with the prospective peace conference as an end in itself. Therefore, instead of earnestly focusing on the enforcement of numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions calling on Israel to terminate its 24 year occupation of Arab land (as opposed to simply negotiating these resolutions), actually delivering Israel to the negotiation table — has become the real issue and the focal point of the whole U.S. diplomatic endeavour.

In the process, Israel must be assured time and again that no amount of undue pressure will be applied on it during the negotiations. Hence all the American commitments in the memorandum about excluding the U.N. from playing any meaningful role in the negotiations, and the multiple assurances that charting a course for the talks, including agenda and timetable, must be left entirely to the parties to the conflict. Just imagine what the U.S. reaction would have been if someone, for example, had recommended using the same diplomatic recipe as a way of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions which called for an end to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Considering the prevailing chaotic state of the Arab World and the substantial imbalance of power between it and Israel, it would seem unwise, if not outright foolhardy, to expect the Israeli government at this stage to accede to long-sought meaningful concessions in the absence of any military or political imperatives to do so. With the unremitting flood of Soviet immigrants posing an increasingly grave housing problem to the state, the hawkish right-wing Israeli cabinet is determined now more than ever to use this crisis as further justification for retaining the occupied territories and continuing the oppression of the Palestinian people. And while colonisation of the West Bank and Gaza continues at a dizzying pace (with generous U.S. funding, of course), the best that the Egyptian and Saudi governments could do was to offer

Israel an end to the decades-old Arab economic boycott in return for a halt to the building of new settlements in the occupied territories. As expected, even this seemingly tempting Arab proposition was promptly rejected by the Israelis.

On the other hand, in the face of all the well documented Israeli abuse of their most basic human rights, Palestinians under Israeli occupation are nonetheless repeatedly admonished by the U.S. secretary of state to be politically more forthcoming, since their salvation lies in Israel's hands, not his. Again, imagine having resorted to the same serpentine logic to address the Kuwaitis suffering under Iraqi occupation.

The conduct of the parties involved in the Middle East conflict points to an Arab World which has lost the last vestiges of its bargaining leverage, and is currently encountering a set of circumstances rivaling those that prevailed after the Arab defeats of 1948 and 1967. This time, however, the Arabs find themselves navigating through one of the toughest political courses in their modern history, but without the benefit of an indispensable moral compass. Unlike those similar trying experiences of the recent past — each of which was also marked by its respective baneful circumstances — this bleak phase of Arab history unfortunately proffers little solace for the aggrieved, the Palestinians who seem to be undergoing vicious attacks on more than one front and one level simultaneously. Nor does it truly hold out much faith in a brighter immediate future, either.

As the Arab World today enters a crucial period which will not be looked back on with kindness towards those who seem set on bargaining away their own history, the abysmal state of Arab affairs may be summed up appropriately with a matchless couplet from Robert Frost's *The Death of the Hired Man*: "And nothing to look backward to with pride. And nothing to look forward to with hope." — The Middle East International.

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Gorbachev and Yeltsin join forces to drag country out of limbo

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

MOSCOW — Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin have joined forces to try to drag the Soviet Union out of the political limbo it has been in since the failed August coup.

Mr. Yeltsin rode out of the prevailing gloom and despondency to Mr. Gorbachev's rescue last Friday to throw his weight behind an agreement governing economic ties between the 12 republics. All but Moldova and Georgia have promised to sign it by Tuesday.

It would be the first concrete agreement to halt the seemingly inexorable drift towards the break-up of the world's biggest country, where Mr. Gorbachev is the overall Soviet president and Mr. Yeltsin rules the vast Russian Federation.

But amid the uncertainty the deal would probably raise as many questions as it answers. Chief among them is: "Will it hold?"

The genie of nationalism unleashed by Mr. Gorbachev's political liberalisation continues to rage unchecked through the republics. Political leaders brave enough to reject this machismo test are few.

Agreeing to sign while subjected to the considerable power of Gorbachev's personality across a table is one thing. Justifying the consequent surrender of sovereignty before a rebellious republican parliament is another.

Mr. Gorbachev sees the economic agreement as the first step towards a political treaty to create a new union, with far more autonomy devolved to republican governments.

"We cannot split up," he said in a television interview broadcast on Saturday. "We must split up the power, give the republics as much oxygen as possible."

After the secession of the three Baltic states last month, many republican leaders are not satisfied with this.

The urgency of restoring political stability is evident. The people, freed from decades of servitude to authority, are increasingly angry at the growing food queues.

Economic reform is impossible amid political ferment.

"They cannot get anything to stick together long enough to implement it," one seasoned foreign analyst said.

Foreign investors and the growing Soviet business sector want to know who makes the rules, who to negotiate with.

Mr. Yeltsin's role is vital. During his two-week holiday on the Black Sea, a new and potentially deadly threat to the union sprang up in his Russian government — Russian nationalism.

Top Yeltsin aides, republican ministers and members of parliament plunged into a vitriolic power struggle behind his back. The common theme was that Russia should assert itself more and stop its "exploitation" by the other republics.

Russia has 150 million of the Soviet Union's remaining 280 million people and the bulk of the



Mikhail Gorbachev

land and resources. After centuries of imperial rule from Moscow, other republics are highly sensitive to Russian dominance.

Any attempt by Russia to throw its weight around could spell instant doom to the union.

Mr. Yeltsin's announcement on Friday that he was prepared to sign the economic agreement indicated he had chosen the hard path of fighting to save the union with Mr. Gorbachev, rather than the easy option of appealing his nationalist supporters.

The two presidents have drawn up joint proposals for the new union treaty.

Since Mr. Yeltsin led resistance to the attempt to overthrow Mr. Gorbachev, the two men have been on a political honeymoon.

The acrimony and mutual accusations of only a few months ago have been replaced by joint public appearances and protestations of confidence in each other.

Mr. Gorbachev praised his former rival on Saturday, saying Mr. Yeltsin's role in persuading other republican leaders to sign the economic accord had been "positive and unifying."

Mr. Gorbachev's authority was crippled by the collapse of the conservative centre after the coup. But as a counterweight to Mr. Yeltsin's Russia, his survival in office is vital to win the confidence of the other republics.

Soviet and foreign pundits say Mr. Gorbachev is a brilliant political operator and should never be underrated.

On Saturday he appeared relaxed and confident, joking with his interviewed, new broadcast chief Yegor Yakovlev.

Mr. Gorbachev has reassessed himself in the two areas where he still holds sway — defence and foreign affairs.

He responded to U.S. unilateral nuclear arms cuts with a matching Soviet proposal — carefully cleared with Mr. Yeltsin first — and on Thursday came up with a surprise offer to mediate in the Yugoslav crisis.

Criticising republican politicians who thought they could profit from an economic agreement without taking the responsibilities of a political union, he commented grimly:

"If there is a conflict based on this kind of approach, this is not Croatia and Serbia, it would be far more terrible."

King satisfied and confident

(Continued from page 1)

"I am very happy indeed to have had the opportunity to discuss with you all the developments so far that are very promising and very positive."

"I believe that this is a very important visit, and comes at a time all of us in this region are preparing for steps to move towards a new threshold, hopefully, of the removal of barriers...that have existed for so long of fear, suspicion and doubt."

"I would like to say we are satisfied, hopeful and confident," he added.

Asked whether Jordan was satisfied with the assurances that the U.S. was offering the Kingdom, the King said, "I believe so." Jordan had received the final draft of American assurances "this evening...we are looking at it...and there is no problem there," he said.

The King, who has offered the withdrawal of a joint Jordan-Palestine delegation to the peace conference, said Jordan was continuing contacts with the Palestinians living in the occupied territories as well as those in the diaspora towards finalising the issue of Palestinian participation in the peace conference. "Dialogue is continuing and we hope to have results soon," he said.

As the King and Mr. Baker spoke in Amman, officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the Palestine Central Council (PCC) had been called to session in Tunis Wednesday to take the final decision on Palestinian participation in the peace conference. Informed sources said that it was almost a foregone conclusion that the council will authorise Palestinian participation in a joint delegation with Jordan after the PLO Executive Committee met over the weekend and decided that it had no other option (see separate story).

"Jordan will 'definitely' discuss 'regional issues' — such as water, the environment and related matters — with Israel in bilateral talks, the King affirmed when asked what the Kingdom's position was in light of reports that Syria was refusing to discuss such topics with the Jewish state prior to an agreement on the political aspects of the conflict."

Despite the last-minute snags over Palestinian representation and PLO reports that it had not received any assurances from the U.S., Mr. Baker has expressed confidence that he would be able to achieve his objective of convening the peace conference before the end of month.

In remarks in Cairo, prior to his departure for Amman earlier in the day, the secretary echoed optimism voiced by his president on Sunday. "I'm hopeful we will be able to see a conference by the end of this month," Mr. Baker said. "The United States remains committed to that goal."

Mr. Bush told reporters Sunday that he was hopeful that Mr. Baker's latest trip to the Middle East would "definitely" start the process of "getting the peace conference started."

"I don't know how to rate the efforts, but I do know that most prospective participants want to go to the table and that's quite different than it used to be," Mr. Bush said in Jamaica, Maryland.

"So I'm somewhat hopeful that Secretary Baker can move this forward now," he added.

Meanwhile, Syria appeared to signal that its reported refusal to sit down and discuss regional issues with Israel prior to a political agreement was no longer binding.

According to a presidential spokesman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez that Syria remained committed to the peace conference "despite difficulties raised by Israel."

"President Assad affirmed that Syria supported the current efforts to achieve peace and that it will continue

to support these efforts until a just peace is achieved despite the obstacles and difficulties raised by Israel," the spokesman said.

Mr. Baker himself has played down the reported Syrian position by saying that he did not expect Damascus to attach much significance to bilateral talks with Israel once the peace conference got going.

Addressing reporters in Cairo along with Mr. Baker earlier Monday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said there was nothing to worry about regarding Syria's position in the peace process.

President Assad, who met with Mr. Mubarak in Cairo on Saturday, "is eager and keen to attend the peace conference," the Egyptian leader said.

Mr. Baker said in Amman he was also continuing contacts with Palestinians from the occupied territories on the issue of Palestinian representation and assurances sought by the Palestinians. But, he said, he was not trying to convince Israel into negotiating with the PLO.

Mr. Baker declined to disclose any details of his contacts with the Palestinians, whose representatives met with him in Washington one day before his departure on the latest Middle East shuttle.

It was not immediately confirmed whether a group of Palestinians from the occupied territories — some of whom arrived in Amman Monday and others expected Tuesday — will meet with Mr. Baker here or whether they will return to occupied Jerusalem to meet with the secretary there Wednesday.

Mr. Baker leaves for Damascus Tuesday and is expected to fly to Israel after talks with President Assad and others. According to some reports, Mr. Baker may return to Jordan for a brief stop and meeting with the PLO.

Mr. Baker will meet with his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin in occupied Jerusalem and it is believed that some of the final details of the peace conference — such as venue and date — would be announced after the meeting, which is also expected to be followed by a Soviet announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel.

In his comments in Cairo, Mr. Baker confirmed that he had started reviewing draft invitations to the conference.

"We have resolved a lot of the differences. There are some that we may not ultimately be able to resolve with any degree of finality," Mr. Baker said. "But at some point we will have to consider the issue of invitations."

"I would like to think there is quite a bit of agreement with respect to the contents of that draft invitation," he said, with President Mubarak standing by his side.

Mr. Mubarak himself said there was no major obstacles remaining in the path towards the peace conference. "There are small things that could be solved on this trip," he said.

In Monday's remarks, Mr. Baker did not spell out the land-for-peace concept, which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejects. Mr. Baker merely cited U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as the terms of reference for the peace conference.

Resolution 242 calls for Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war in return for Arab recognition of its right to live in peace within secure borders. Resolution 338 reaffirms 242 and calls for negotiations under "the appropriate auspices."

Asked in Cairo specifically about the land-for-peace formula, Mr. Baker replied: "The various parties to this discussion have their own interpretations of what 242 requires. Those interpretations differ and it will be up to the negotiations to determine exactly what is required."

Mr. Baker reiterated the U.S. view that building Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is "an obstacle to peace."

PCC to endorse joint delegation

(Continued from page 1)

Independent Palestinian representation. The officials said that even though the American assurances are still far from sufficient, a mechanism could be worked out with Jordan to ensure an independent Palestinian representation.

"We might be able to work out a mechanism that will ensure independent representation that can be acceptable to the U.S.," one PLO official said.

In a speech to the National Congress on Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein said that the Palestinian side of the joint team will negotiate the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein said that the joint delegation will be headed by a Jordanian. A PLO delegation, which currently visiting Jordan, is requesting a rotating presidency for the joint delegation.

PLO sources, however, said that at the inaugural meeting of the peace conference the joint delegation will be held by Jordan but there will be

speeches by both the leaders of the Jordanian side and the head of the Palestinian side.

It was still unclear how the major PLO demand that the Palestinian delegation represent Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, will be solved.

The extremely sensitive issue of the representation of Jerusalem might be solved by choosing a personality from one of the villages which are considered part of the Jerusalem area, like Abu Dis or Al-Zayta.

News reports from the West Bank Monday suggested trade minister Ali Abu Hilal, from Abu Dis, to be selected as a compromise for the representation of Jerusalem.

But the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which swapped Mr. Abu Hilal the bodies of Israeli soldiers in a International Red Cross-broker deal last month, denied that Mr. Abu Hilal was nominated.

Senior PLO officials said that the leadership has not selected any de-

legation yet even though many names are being circulated.

Among the names that were circulated were Rafwan Abu Ayesh, Sari Nusseibeh, Ziyad Abu Ziyad, Saad Arafat, Jamil Tarif, and Elias Frej. Hassan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, who have negotiating with Mr. James Baker for months are strong candidates but it was not clear if they will be "acceptable" to Israel as they are considered to be PLO backers and Mr. Hussein as East Jerusalem.

But PLO officials said that the organisation's understanding was that the names will not be submitted for Israeli approval.

The officials said that there have been no official lists submitted by the PLO to any government. "No list has been drawn up yet, but any list will definitely include some of the names that are being circulated," a PLO official said.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash, which categorically reject participation at the peace conference and the DFLP of Nayef Hawatmeh are expected to oppose a PCC authorisation of sending a Palestinian team to the conference.

DFLP sources in Amman said that they did not think that the American assurances were sufficient for authorising Palestinian participation.

Yanomamis, Westerners — a wide culture gap

By Kevin Noblet
The Associated Press

ASHIDOWA-TERI, VENEZUELA — A brave handful of Yanomami stood, hooted and waved excitedly as the Venezuelan Air Force chopper roared into their village.

Others, however, clung for dear life to tree trunks in the jungle canopy, emerging only after an infernal noise and wind died down.

Some were adorned with red paint on their face and shoulders, and wore brilliant feather earrings. One carried a fistful of the 2-metre long arrows the tribe uses for hunting. Most wore only a string or small strip of cloth at the waist or groin.

The villagers said it was the first time most of them had ever seen non-Yanomamis.

"They don't know about the threat our culture represents to them," said Venezuelan naturalist Charles Brewer-Carias, an advocate of Yanomami rights who arranged the helicopter visit. "That's the real catastrophe."

One travelling tribesman from another village, who was at Ashidowa-Teri to obtain tobacco, had spent some time at a Catholic mission and knew some rudimentary Spanish.

And he was worldly: although he'd never been out of the forest, he said he had heard of Venezuela, of Colombia, of Caracas and another town called San Fernando.

He stared into the eyes of one of the visitors, to see if he also had heard of these places.

Others touched and rubbed the visitors, feeling the weave of their western clothing, and spoke in

the abrupt Yanomami tongue. Women and children remained inside the village's one structure, a thatched roundhouse with a roof open at the middle and a dirt floor.

The children were clearly upset by the visitors' unusual appearance, and perhaps by the noisy chopper.

In one hammock, a teenaged mother hugged a boy of about 2 and cried out repeatedly. "She's saying the boy's scared," said U.S. anthropologist Napoleon Chagnon.

The helicopter delivered a team of anthropologists, physicians, botanists and others engaged in research or medical care programmes. They planned to remain in the jungle for a week or longer, hiking from Ashidowa-Teri to other nearby villages.

Ashidowa-Teri sits in a vast and hilly, emerald-green forest laced with twisting black rivers and streams. Insects buzzed noisily in the sweltering, noon heat, but the roundhouse's partial roof — not to mention the dense jungle canopy — offered shelter from a blazing sun.

Hanging under the roofed sections of the roundhouse were hammocks of tree bark of crudely spun cotton dyed red, and tightly woven baskets.

Each family — a man, a couple of wives and perhaps three children — occupied a separate space, kept its own fire and cooked its own food. Above the hammocks, dangled bones, skins and other trophies from hunting, along with bananas and other produce from the family's hillside garden plots outside the roundhouse.

THANKS

To the messenger of peace
Secretary of State James Baker:
There are no words that will describe our appreciations and thanks for what you do. May God bless you, bless
His Majesty King Hussein
and all those who will sit at the table for peace.
Mazen Elias Adajh

Hard times in Kuwait for Iraqis caught in cycle of hate

By Diana Abdallah
Reuters

KUWAIT — Iraqi soldiers imprisoned her. After they fled, angry Kuwaitis sent her to jail again.

Her crime was being an Iraqi. The 37-year-old woman was born in Kuwait and lived all her life here.

Iraqi troops who conquered Kuwait in August last year accused her of treason. When the U.S.-led allies drove President Saddam Hussein's troops from the emirate seven months later the Kuwaitis accused her of spying for Baghdad.

"The Iraqis accused me of collaborating with the Kuwaitis, then after liberation I was accused of working with the Iraqis," the woman said.

She and other Iraqis caught in the cycle of hate are afraid to give their names.

More than 40,000 Iraqis were living in Kuwait when Iraqi tanks rolled in on August 2, 1990. Diplomats estimate that only 6,000 remain, including 1,000 members of the Iraqi opposition who fled Saddam's rule and those married to Kuwaitis.

Many fear they will be forced to leave by a new Kuwaiti residency law to control the presence of foreigners. They say they have nowhere else to go.

"We fear being forced out of Kuwait and handed over to the Iraqi authorities. No country is giving us visas, so we will end up falling into the hands of our executioner (Saddam)," said a 36-year-old member of the Iraqi opposition.

He said many Iraqis still living in Kuwait have sought the help of international organisations but in vain.

"When the Iraqis invaded they were after the Iraqi opposition, but the Kuwaiti government does not understand that not all the Iraqis are (like) Saddam," he added.

The Kuwaiti government has not made clear its position on the fate of the Iraqi opposition members living in Kuwait.

"We don't know what is going to happen, they will probably not give us residency. I don't know what my fate will be," said a 30-year-old Iraqi woman, who was also born in Kuwait.

She has lost her job with a computer company and has two children from her ex-husband, a Kuwaiti.

"The children have Kuwaiti passports, but I want to take them with me. I know they will not be allowed into Iraq and I cannot stay here. I don't know what to do. All I want is my boys to be with me," she said.

"I feel no hatred. I don't have any feelings. I just want to give up," she added, as her six-year-old son cuddled her.

"We were victims of both sides. The Iraqis said we were traitors, then the Kuwaitis said we were traitors."

But the Kuwaiti government should know that the Iraqi people here are oppressed and it should not increase their oppression," said her sister, sitting on the torn carpet in their living room.

"We are not guilty. We would have run away otherwise. The

Kuwaitis should realise that lots of Iraqis have escaped Saddam's tyranny and they have nowhere else to go," she added.

The sister's husband, an Iraqi, was arrested in the first days after liberation at the end of February. She still does not know his fate.

The Iraqis interviewed by Reuters said they had to leave their homes and squat in small shabby apartments to escape harassment by people who knew their nationality.

In a small and dark basement flat, a 49-year-old man said he was taking his family back to Iraq where he had no home and no job. "What can I do, tell me?"

His 17-year-old daughter was arrested by the Kuwaitis and held in jail for 30 days on charges of collaborating with the Iraqis during the occupation.

Black circles under his eyes and a stubble of a beard testified to his anxiety about his family's fate. He has lost the job he had for 12 years at the Health Ministry and his daughter now supports the family.

"I can only go to Iraq, but I don't have a home in Iraq. I don't have work, nothing."

His daughter spoke of her arrest by the Kuwaitis in a faint voice. "They came and took me from home. They were the young boys of the neighbourhood. They said I had helped the Iraqis and gave them the names of Kuwaitis in the resistance. I explained to them that I did not help the Iraqis and that the Iraqis themselves accused me of being a spy for the Kuwaitis and told me I was a traitor to my country and should be shot."

Children of Iraq raise voices in government sanctions protest

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

BAGHDAD — In pink party frocks and wolf cub outfits, Baghdad children raised their small voices on Sunday to the clamour of protest the government is mounting over U.N. sanctions it says are killing the young.

The demonstration, organised by the Iraqi Red Crescent, was the latest in a campaign the authorities are waging to persuade opinion at home and abroad that their privations are due to American persecution.

"The mother of revolutions is our revolution," the children chanted before Iraqi and foreign media. "Saddam Hussein is our guide," they sang to mark Iraqi children's day, which commemorates the bombing of a children's school in the Iran-Iraq war in 1987.

But the focus was on sanctions: the U.N. Security Council clamped in August last year to punish Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. Baghdad says the shortages it has caused are killing thousands of children every month.

Saddam Hussein's government shows no signs of accepting U.N. Resolution 706, which would allow Baghdad to sell \$1.6 billion

worth of oil to buy essential supplies whose purchase and distribution would be monitored by the U.N.

To accept such terms would be to surrender more sovereignty over Iraq to the United Nations, government spokesmen argue.

Government media coverage of the resolution concentrates on its intrusive hold over Iraq's economy rather than any benefits that might accrue from the ability to buy medicine and foodstuffs, officials say in short supply.

Iraqi officials, including doctors, speak only of the effects of the embargo, not its origins or any easing that Resolution 706 might bring. "I just need medicine. I don't care how," confided one doctor at the weekend.

"We cannot buy surgical spirit to administer injections. Or proper disinfectant to clean the floor or even soap to wash our hands with before operations," Dr. Nazar Ahmad Al Anbar, director of a children's hospital complained to Reuters on Saturday.

The government's rejection of the resolution reached a predictable climax for the week at a conference of "popular Arab forces" which ended in Baghdad on Sunday.

The message from the conference appeared clear: The Arab World should back Saddam for

standing up to the United States and be the first members of the United Nations to break sanctions.

It grouped 800 individuals from countries which sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf war — Sudan, Yemen and Jordan — as well as citizens of states which identified with Saddam's stand against the United States, even if their governments publicly opposed it.

Popular pro-Saddam feeling in such countries — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco — ran high, and the three-day meeting attracted trade unionists and intellectuals who will go back with thunderous pro-Iraq statements still ringing in their ears to disseminate at home.

The leverage the pro-Iraqi group holds in the United Nations is minimal but the conference even attracted delegates from countries such as Egypt which backed the U.S.-led coalition and provided troops for the Gulf war.

By appealing over the heads of such governments, the Baghdad authorities appear to hope that popular support will eventually sway Arab governments into getting the U.N. to loosen its grip on the economy.

In this campaign, U.S. President George Bush is portrayed as the arch villain. "For God's sake, you are from the press, tell the

world that Bush is killing our children," pleaded an Iraqi delegate.

And the children are the innocent victims, the government says. "They went to their God complaining of the cruelty of the people who killed them," the head of Baghdad's best hospital told the children's rally on Sunday.

Dr. Qassim Mohammad Ismail, director of paediatrics at Saddam Centre Hospital, said the infant death rate at his hospital had trebled from 32 per 1,000 before the war to 98 now.

"I call upon you please to ask for the lifting of the embargo for our children," he told Reuters on Sunday.

So did the children. Survivors of the Amiriyah shelter attack in which 300 people were killed in Gulf war bombing attended the event, which was part political, part Sunday outing.

"Is this the courage of a superpower, killing children and old men," said five-year-old Hibba Ibrahim Mohammad, who lost her fingers in the fire that wrecked the shelter.

Flash guns popped as proud mothers recorded the event, as mothers might at a school play or sports event. The cameras of foreign TV networks whirled.

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Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.7235	1.7222
Deutsche Mark	1.6885	1.6917
Swiss Franc	1.7495	1.7485
French Franc	5.7540	5.7645
Japanese Yen	129.53	129.00
European Currency Unit	1.2124	1.2107

USD Per STD

European Opening (at 8:00 a.m. GMT)

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	5.31	5.31	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.06	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.80	8.18	8.06	8.06
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.31	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.81	6.53	6.25	5.96
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.87	9.87	9.87

Interest rate bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	361.05	7.050	Silver	4.15	.092

21 Karat

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1791	1.1850
Deutsche Mark	.4049	.4069
Swiss Franc	.4631	.4654
French Franc	.1188	.1194
Japanese Yen	.5315	.5342
Dutch Guilder	.3593	.3611
Swedish Krona	.1111	.1117
Italian Lira	.0541	.0544
Belgian Franc	.01966	.01976

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7920	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0776
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1832
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1861	.1866
Qatari Riyal	.2090	.2100
Egyptian Pound	1.7580	1.7780
Omani Riyal	.1861	.1866
UAE Dirham	.3600	.3675
Greek Drachma	1.4750	1.4700

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	12/10/1991 Close	13/10/1991 Close
All-Share	121.69	121.86
Banking Sector	102.71	102.77
Insurance Sector	124.84	124.81
Industry Sector	150.41	150.70
Services Sector	129.77	130.57

December 31, 1990 = 100

Poland introduces crawling peg system for zloty/dollar rate

WARSAW (R) — The National Bank of Poland (NBP) said Monday it had introduced a so-called crawling peg system for the zloty/dollar rate which would result in a devaluation of the currency of around 4.3 per cent by the end of this year.

The rate would grow by about nine zloties (less than 0.1 cent) a day, starting from the rate of 11,100 zloties against the dollar fixed in May in relation to a basket of currencies.

Under the system, which would also apply in 1992, the zloty would be devalued up to 1.8 per cent every month.

"The move was made first of all to boost exports," acting NBP president Andrzej Topinski told state television.

Exports, seen by the government as the engine driving Poland's reforms, fell in the first nine months of 1990 by 5.6 per cent compared to the same period last year and totalled \$8.9 billion at the end of September.

On May 17, the zloty was devalued by 14.4 per cent after the foreign trade balance plunged into the red by \$1.9 billion in April.

After the May devaluation, exports jumped to produce a \$2.4 billion trade surplus in June. But

by the end of September, the surplus fell to just \$68 million.

In 1990, the surplus was \$3.8 billion and exports had shot up 40 per cent over the previous year.

The move is only the second devaluation of the zloty in almost 22 months since the government introduced a tough anti-inflationary programme, a pillar of which was the stable exchange rate.

Inflation in 1990 was 250 per cent and it has reached about 40 per cent so far this year.

"The mechanism of a forceable rate should stabilise the currency market," Mr. Topinski said, adding that market pressure to devalue had increased recently.

The difference between the NBP's zloty/dollar rates and those on the market had seldom exceeded two per cent up or down. But since the beginning of October, the market rate has outstripped the official one by almost four per cent.

The basket used to calculate the zloty rate includes the dollar (45 per cent), mark (35 per cent), pound sterling (10 per cent), French franc (five per cent) and Swiss franc (five per cent), a reflection of the currency structure of Polish foreign trade, NBP said.

Hashimoto formally resigns

TOKYO (AP) — Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto formally resigned Monday to take responsibility for a series of financial scandals, a government official said.

The 54-year-old Hashimoto tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu effective Monday, an official of the prime minister's office said.

Mr. Kaifu will assume the post of finance minister until the end of his administration's term on Oct. 30.

Mr. Hashimoto had offered to resign last Thursday, after parliament passed legislation aimed at preventing the recurrence of stock scandals such as the one that has rocked the Japanese financial world since early this summer.

Top brokerages have admitted paying about \$1.6 billion in loss compensation of favoured clients and several banks have acknowledged issuing bogus certificates of deposit.

Mr. Hashimoto's ministry has come under strong criticism for being lax in regulating stock brokerages and banks.

Mr. Hashimoto has indirectly expressed his intention to resign ever since the scandals came to light in June but has said he wanted to oversee the passage of the financial reform bill in parliament.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Despite the strong yen, volume and prices faded as investors awaited fresh factors and ahead of the restrictions on business by the big four brokers. The Nikkei was down 297.05 points or 1.23 per cent to 23,860.67.

SYDNEY — The market made healthy gains after rallying strongly on hopes of a further easing in monetary policy. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 8.4 points to 1,563.7.

HONG KONG — Stocks rebounded on technical buying but brokers said trade was lacklustre. The Hang Seng Index closed 4.23 points up at 4,022.21.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed broadly higher on bargain hunting and short-covering in fairly active trading. The Straits Times Index closed at 1,375.03, up 22.66 points.

BOMBAY — Shares fell after higher carry-forward charges were fixed for business done in the two weeks to last Friday, indicating there were large over-sold positions. The BSE Index fell 35.20 points to 1,729.30. The National Index shed 15.54 to 830.48.

FRANKFURT — Strong support in futures trade boosted the cash market. The 30-share Dax Index ended up 2.62 at 1,571.04.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended a mostly quiet session steady, with the All-Share SPI index 0.7 points down at 1,078.9. Investors were sidelined by a lack of market-moving factors and continuing high interest rates.

IMF hopes to offer help to more poor nations in coming few weeks

BANGKOK (R) — The number of very poor countries eligible for special help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may be expanded within weeks, the agency's managing director said Monday.

Michel Camdessus told a news conference he hoped the fund's executive board would consider extending the enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF), which provides very low cost loans to the world's poorest nations, in the next few weeks.

He made the remarks after the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee issued a communique saying the list of countries eligible for ESAF support should be kept under consideration with a view to possible expansion.

The ESAF was established in 1987 with a pool of \$8 billion to provide loans to about 60 countries on extremely favourable terms — interest of one half per cent, repayable over 10 years.

Countries were eligible depending on certain per-capita income levels and balance-of-payments needs.

Mr. Camdessus said countries such as Mongolia and Angola, which were not even IMF members in 1987, should be eligible, and other countries above the per-capita-income threshold in 1987 had now fallen below.

Mr. Camdessus said since the ESAF was introduced, the rate of growth for eligible countries had averaged more than four per cent a year, against only 2.5 per cent in the previous three years.

A few countries would no longer need ESAF, he said.

"Of course they will remain fragile and we will continue to monitor them," he said, adding that the IMF's other resources would remain available to help.

Mr. Camdessus also noted that the Interim Committee had called on the Paris Club of official creditors to continue talking about how to provide additional debt relief to the poorest countries.

Interim Committee Chairman Carlos Siochaga, Spain's economy and finance minister, said it would be impossible to ask poor

countries to adjust their economies if they were not given the possibility of restructuring their debt.

Mr. Camdessus said the IMF was giving a clear mandate to the official creditors among its members to follow the call of the Group of Seven (G-7) rich industrial nations made at their London meeting this summer.

The G-7 at that time called for the poorest, most indebted countries to get improved terms on new loans, extended maturities or debt write-offs and lower interest rates on existing loans.

The Interim Committee's communique called on banks and debtor nations to "work expeditiously toward a normalisation of financial relations in those cases where restructuring of bank debt is a necessary complement to strong domestic adjustment efforts."

The committee stressed the importance of continued adequate and timely financial support for all developing countries that maintain sound policies.

The chief of the financial agency also said that the disputed right of the IMF to call on members to cut arms spending was "a question of death or life."

The managing director told the news conference he was pleased the Interim Committee had seen fit to point out the economic importance of limiting spending on weapons.

"An important contribution could be made by reassessing spending on defence and subsidies," the Interim Committee communique said Monday in a section devoted to ways of helping reinvigorate the world economy.

That is fighting language to nations in the developing world, who Friday told the World Bank and the IMF meeting in Bangkok to stick to money and leave defence to them.

"This is a very basic debate involving for every country its possible survival in a fight with enemies, but also its possible survival in the fight against poverty, illiteracy and underdevelop-

ment," Mr. Camdessus said.

"So it's a question of death or life for countries," he said.

What was important was that all countries were looking at defence spending, he said.

"In a matter of defence, what your neighbours are doing is as important as what you are doing," he pointed out.

The process of cutting arms spending could be mutually reinforcing, and eventually lead to a race for disarmament, he said.

The finance ministers of the Group of 24 (G-24), which represents the interests of the developing world within the sister agencies, in a communique Friday told the IMF and the World Bank not to get involved "in issues beyond their strict economic and financial mandate."

The Group of 10 rich nations reported Sunday in a statement issued after a brief meeting of finance ministers. They called for cuts "in unproductive expenditures including excessive military expenditures, in all countries."

Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok backed the IMF's stand on arms spending in a speech Sunday even though he said the IMF should retain its non-political character.

"Military expenditure is a legitimate concern of the fund, as it can have undesirable consequences," Mr. Kok said.

The fund can, in fact, give its considered comments, indeed criticism, in cases of excessive military spending to the authorities concerned without rocking its non-political foundation, precisely because it is non-political," he said.

The Netherlands is a member of the Group of 10.

The argument was joined Monday by British Chancellor of Exchequer Norman Lamont in a speech before the Development Committee.

"Much military expenditure is, almost by definition, unproductive in economic terms," he said.

"It does little or nothing to help developing countries build up the physical and human capital they need to achieve sustainable



Michel Camdessus

growth."

"It absorbs large quantities of often scarce foreign exchange and leads to external debts which many developing countries simply cannot afford," he pointed out.

He said he welcomed the IMF's efforts to obtain better information about levels of military spending in member countries.

Colombian Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes, who chaired the G-24 meeting, said some developing countries feared the IMF might make cuts in military spending a condition for extending fresh loans.

India and Pakistan, confronting each other across a disputed border, have taken strong positions against IMF calls for cuts in arms spending.

The rift over the issue is not solely between rich and poor countries.

"There are shades of opinion both among the industrial and the developing countries," an Argentine official said.

Latin American countries, where memories of oppressive military dictatorships are still fresh, are enthusiastic advocates of lower arms spending.

Colombia had earlier hoped the G-24 would make an explicit stand against high arms spending.

In contrast, Middle East nations still spend more than 10 per cent of their economic output on armaments.

Experts say Soviet economy requires financial discipline

BANGKOK (Agencies) — The Soviet Union needs financial discipline to get out of its deepening economic crisis, senior officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank said Monday.

"What the Soviet Union needs is hard measures," Lawrence Summers, chief economist for the World Bank, told a meeting on the fringes of the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank.

John Odling-Smee, deputy director of the IMF's European Department, said the Kremlin and the republics must get to grips with swelling budget deficits if they hoped to control soaring inflation and implement successful reforms.

Mr. Odling-Smee was less scathing in his assessment of Soviet reform prospects than the World Bank expert, who said the country lacked basic understanding of how a market economy functioned.

"The degree of ignorance in the Soviet Union today is truly fantastic," Mr. Summers said. But he believes the country has the human, technological and natural resources to succeed.

The IMF, which traditionally

takes a tough stance on financial discipline, has estimated Soviet inflation at about 100 per cent in the year up to August.

President Mikhail Gorbachev signed an accord on special association with the IMF earlier this month, allowing his country access to technical assistance but not the credits provided for by full membership, the Kremlin's next goal.

Mr. Summers said stabilising the rouble was one of the main problems to be tackled by the Soviet Union as it introduces market-based policies and draws closer to the Western free-market system.

"When and if some government in the Soviet Union undertakes stabilisation, funds to support that stabilisation should be made available," he said.

The World Bank economist blamed Soviet food supply problems on poor distribution and the population's lack of purchasing power.

He also criticised fuel waste at a time of declining oil production. Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said it would take decades to resolve

Soviet economic difficulties. He called for creation of new institutions and implementation of laws protecting entrepreneurs.

Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus was more pessimistic about Soviet prospects. "It is not enough just to use the word 'market' in every sentence instead of 'planning'," he said.

"You have to stabilise the economy. You have to put fundamentals in order," he said, adding that the rouble could be made convertible against other currencies very quickly.

Soviet economist Oleg Bogomolov agreed with the assessment that discipline was required. "If we are going to establish a real sound currency, we need to undertake very tough measures," he said.

Economic policy-makers said the capitalist world must slash budget deficits, put more money in the bank and stop throwing funds into armaments if it is to make good its promise to help the Soviet Union dump communism.

The policy-makers warned of a global credit crunch that would push up interest rates and crimp economic growth if the rich industrialised democracies failed to act.

"The need to raise global saving is heightened by new demands for money for reconstruction in the Middle East, unification in Germany, the economic transformation of eastern Europe and prospects for reform in the USSR," the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee said.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7200/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1287/92	Canadian dollar
	1.6918/25	Deutsche marks
	1.9040/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4780/90	Swiss francs
	34.82/86	Belgian francs
	5.7625/75	French francs
	124/1265	Italian lire
	129.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.1625/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6200/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.5200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	360.10/360.50	U.S. dollars

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Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
When Harry Met Sally
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
Tom Selleck in
HER ALIBI
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Passport Lost
I, Dhanpat Singh, have lost in Amman my Indian passport. No. Y 470567 issued on 10th April 1988, at Indian Embassy, Amman.
If anybody finds it please inform tel. 622098

Indian Restaurant
8th Circle, Tel. 819829
Indian Foods
BAR.B.QE NIGHTLY
Take away Service
24 Hour Open

Vukovar relief convoy halted as Yugoslav truce hangs in balance

VINKOVCI, Yugoslavia (R) — A relief convoy taking emergency aid to the besieged Croatian town of Vukovar hit new delays Monday, putting a ceasefire in the rebel republic further in doubt.

The convoy had been due to leave a Yugoslav army barracks on the outskirts of Vukovar to take food and medical supplies to the centre of the town and ferry out the wounded after seven weeks of constant shelling that has almost flattened it.

But a spokesman for a European Community peace mission escorting the convoy said its passage was still blocked more than two hours after its scheduled departure because of confusion over terms for crossing frontlines.

The new setback increased fears the eighth truce in Yugoslavia's 16-week undeclared civil war will collapse because the convoy's success is part of a deal to lift a blockade of a federal army barracks in Croatia's capital Zagreb.

"There have been some conflicting commands from the army, some requests for a further search of the convoy which we had agreed last night was not necessary," said Simon Smits, a

spokesman for 200 EC ceasefire monitors based in Zagreb.

He indicated the problem was local and the agreement had not broken down entirely, even though fighting has continued around Vukovar in northeastern Croatia and in many other areas despite the latest truce agreement.

Reporters in Vinkovci, about 20 kilometres from Vukovar, were unable to approach the town to check the reports.

Vukovar and neighbouring towns are Croatian strongholds and flashpoints in an area inhabited by many Serbs who have rebelled against Croatia's independence moves in a conflict that has killed more than 1,000 people since June.

One EC source said the convoy had left the barracks in Vukovar, but was stopped by local Serbian forces who wanted to check none of the vehicles was carrying weapons.

Another said the convoy might have to take another route to avoid anti-tank defences, including trenches and heavy barricades. Local army officers saw the relief as a move to resupply the enemy for further battles, the

source said.

The convoy of 50 trucks, ambulances and buses braved heavy fighting to reach the outskirts of Vukovar Sunday after two failed attempts. It was given shelter in an army barracks.

Its failure to move as planned cast a shadow over the latest EC peace talks on Yugoslavia in the Hague, attended by the foreign ministers of the six Yugoslav republics and federal Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar.

Cyrus Vance, the former U.S. Secretary of State who is acting as personal envoy of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, was also attending the talks before returning to Yugoslavia for further meetings Tuesday.

Tanjug News Agency reported renewed fighting in the central Croatian towns of Nova and Stara Gradiska after battles Sunday around nearby Pakrac and in Vukovar and neighbouring towns in northeast Croatia.

General Johan Koster, deputy head of the EC monitoring mission in Croatia, said in Zagreb the federal army had continued attacks.

"The army is constantly bringing in more men, still trying to

take Vukovar and go on. I think you can speak about a clear aggressor and that's the federal army," he told Dutch Radio.

The Vukovar convoy has been linked in the latest peace plan with the relief of the army's Borongaj Barracks in Zagreb.

An initial group of federal troops and equipment from Borongaj has left Croatia and crossed into the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but the rest must wait until the Vukovar convoy is on its way out of the war zone.

The southern resort of Dubrovnik, without electricity, gas, water or telephone communications for two weeks, was still cut off, Croatian Radio reported, despite a deal to lift federal naval blockades of Adriatic ports.

In the Hague, the European Community resumed its peace conference on Yugoslavia Monday, keeping up pressure on the warring parties to stick to the latest ceasefire terms and seek a political solution to the crisis.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and Foreign Ministers of the six republics attended the plenary session of the conference.

Detained Burmese opposition leader wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Norway (R) — Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest since 1989 for uniting opposition forces in the struggle to topple Burma's military rulers by nonviolent means, won the Nobel Peace Prize Monday.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which awarded the \$1 million prize, commended Mrs. Suu Kyi for "one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage in Asia in recent decades."

Mrs. Suu Kyi, 46, (pronounced Aun Sahn Soo Chee) was placed under house arrest on July 20, 1989, following a 10-month campaign in which she pressed for democracy and condemned human rights abuses by the military junta.

Her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), won 80 per cent of the seats in May 1990 elections, but the junta ignored the election results and stepped up persecution of both the political opposition and ethnic minorities.

The committee cited Mrs. Suu Kyi "for her unflinching efforts and to show its support for the people throughout the world who are striving to attain democracy, human rights, and ethnic reconciliation by peaceful means."

It was not known if she had any way of learning she had won the peace prize. Mrs. Suu Kyi is not allowed to receive visitors or otherwise communicate with the rest of the world.

Mrs. Suu Kyi is married to British Professor Michael Aris, currently teaching a course on Tibet at Harvard University, and is the mother of two sons.

Burma's rulers have said she may leave the country, but she says she will not unless her return is guaranteed.

She is thus unlikely to be able to travel to Oslo on Dec. 10 to accept the prize. Under similar circumstances, Poland's Lech Walesa did not pick up his award in 1983.

After long resisting involvement in politics, the daughter of legendary Burmese independence struggle hero Aung San returned to Burma from Britain in April 1988 to nurse her ill mother, who died later that year.

When General Ne Win, who had controlled Burma's politics since 1962, was forced to resign in July 1988, it appears as though that was when Mrs. Suu Kyi decided to remain in Burma, enter politics and join the struggle

against the authoritarian regime," the committee said.

She was swept into prominence during a nationwide pro-democracy uprising that fell which the military brutally crushed, killing thousands of protesters.

In an attempt to placate an angry populace, the junta allowed political parties and Mrs. Suu Kyi began her work to forge a United Opposition Front, demonstrating what the committee called "considerable political and organisational talent."

But after months of speeches across the nation, calling for democracy through nonviolent means, she was placed under house arrest, where she remained when the junta allowed the elections it refused to honour.

Subsequently, a number of opposition leaders were imprisoned or forced to flee the country. The United States estimates that Burma's rulers are holding some 2,000 political prisoners.

President Václav Havel of Czechoslovakia, himself mentioned as a candidate for the peace prize last year, nominated Mrs. Suu Kyi for this year's prize, saying her nomination would focus attention on human rights in Burma.

Princess Diana gets hate mail

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Diana has been receiving hate mail over her high-profile campaign to help victims of AIDS and fight public prejudice about the killer disease, a British newspaper has reported. The 30-year-old princess, the popular wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, is credited with helping raise public awareness about the disease by visiting AIDS clinics and comforting the afflicted. She makes a point of hugging babies with AIDS and holding hands with victims to show that people need not be afraid of infection through casual contact. The AIDS virus, which attacks the immune system, is spread through sexual contact or contaminated body fluids. The Daily Mirror quoted unidentified friends and colleagues of the princess as saying she was shocked and upset by the critical letters, but was more determined than ever to continue her work with AIDS sufferers. Buckingham Palace officials were not available for comments.

Spielberg marries actress Kate Capshaw

EASTHAMPTON, New York (AP) — There were no aliens, swastickers or killer sharks at director Steven Spielberg's latest production. He married actress Kate Capshaw at a ceremony at his Long Island estate. Actors Harrison Ford and Dustin Hoffman were among the 100 guests at the wedding on the Bank of Georgia. The rehearsal dinner was held Friday night at an Italian restaurant where guests had to say a secret password to attend.

Giant panda gives birth in Peking Zoo

PEKING (AP) — A giant panda at the Peking Zoo has given birth to a cub, the second panda born there this year, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. Xinhua said the cub, named An An, was born on Aug. 22. The mother, 17-year-old Dai Dai, has given birth to six cubs since 1980, the report added. China has the world's only wild panda population. But its numbers have plummeted in recent decades to an estimated 1,100-1,500 because of poaching and human encroachment on the panda's habitat. About 100 pandas live in Chinese zoos. Most giant pandas born in captivity, especially those conceived through artificial insemination, die in their first weeks. Scientists do not know why. An An and another baby panda named Ying Ying born earlier in August at the zoo were conceived through natural mating, Xinhua said. An An was the 42nd giant panda born in the Peking Zoo since the zoo began exhibiting pandas in 1955. Eighteen of the pandas born at the zoo have survived. Xinhua reported in September that a panda at the Chengdu Zoo in southwestern China gave birth to a cub after being artificially inseminated.

Soviets might show Trojan treasure taken from Berlin

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union may soon put on show a glittering collection of ancient Trojan treasures that disappeared at the end of the World War II, German television said Friday. SAT 1 quoted Soviet Culture Ministry official Genrich Popov as saying the golden crowns, jewels and artefacts believed to have belonged to King Priam of Troy could be on exhibit in two or three months. Soviet troops carted off treasures from Germany after the war but Moscow long denied it was holding them. Soviet officials recently indicated they had some artworks after Bonn and Moscow began talks on returning art stolen by both sides. Mr. Popov told SAT 1 the priceless collection, unearthed by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1873, could go on display after claims to its ownership had been examined. "Ernst Schliemann, a relative of the researcher, proposed to Soviet officials a few days ago that the treasure should stay in the Soviet Union for the time being and be publicly displayed," SAT 1 said in a statement on its programme to be broadcast on Saturday. "The Soviet side agreed to the idea." SAT 1 said Mr. Popov approved Mr. Schliemann's proposal that the treasure be exhibited in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

28 killed in Chad coup attempt

N'DJAMENA (R) — At least 28 people were killed after an attempted coup in Chad by Interior Minister Maidoum Bada Abbas over the weekend, hospital sources said Monday. The sources at the Central Hospital in the capital N'Djamena said the dead were overwhelmingly civilians who were killed in apparent reprisals after fighting Sunday between soldiers of rival ethnic groups. Government sources said Mr. Abbas, the number two in President Idriss Deby's government, was under arrest with several other prominent politicians. An earlier statement from the presidency, announcing a night curfew in N'Djamena from Monday, said four people were killed during Sunday morning's attack by mutinous troops on a barracks near the airport. The hospital sources said 28 bodies had been brought in by midday Monday. "Only one seemed to be a soldier. The others were all civilians," one source said.

23 blacks killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At least 23 people were killed in bloody attacks in black townships, police said Monday, including 10 mowed down by gunmen who stormed a bar and nearby homes. It was one of worst weekends of violence in Johannesburg's black townships in recent months, police said. The killings came despite a peace pact signed last month by main political groups. Police commanders moved reinforcements into townships Monday in an attempt to contain the violence. Heavily armed police in armoured trucks patrolled streets. At least 60 blacks have been killed in Johannesburg townships since last week after several weeks of relative calm. Police say they are unable to explain the upsurge of violence. About 30 unidentified gunmen attacked a bar late Sunday night in Soweto township and then shot down people in nearby homes, killing 10 and wounding four, according to police and eyewitnesses. Survivors said the men entered the bar and began firing without uttering a word. Police Col. Tienie Halgryn said the attackers apparently came from a nearby migrant worker's hostel that is a stronghold of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party.

N. Korean leader returns from China

PEKING (R) — North Korean President Kim Il-Sung left China for home Monday after a 10-day visit during which the hardline Communist leader saw a string of examples of successful economic reform, official reports said. Mr. Kim left the central city of Nanjing by special train late Sunday, seen off by Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and hundreds of cheering citizens, the official New China News Agency said. "I am quite familiar with you now," Mr. Kim was quoted as telling Mr. Jiang before he left. "I am very happy to know all the three generations of China's leaders." Mr. Kim's visit, officially his 39th, has been presented by China's government-controlled press as a celebration of solidarity between two of Asia's last bastions of communism. Diplomats said Peking had been privately pushing the North Korean leader to relax the state's vice-like grip on the badly faltering economy and end Pyongyang's isolation.

Pope attacks married priests

SAO LUIS, Brazil (AP) — John Paul II skirted the edge of the Amazon basin Monday after strongly rebuffing Brazilians who backed the idea of politically active or married priests. The Pope, in his third day of a ten-day visit to Brazil, was expected to speak later on the need for agrarian reform. In the past decade, some top Brazilian church officials have advocated the ordination of married men to alleviate a growing shortage of priests. At a worldwide synod of bishops last year in Rome, Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider disclosed that two married men in Brazil became priests with Vatican approval. The statement had been an attempt to circumvent a ban on such discussions at a meeting of 200 bishops. "This is not the way to circumvent the serious lack of priests," the Pope told a group of priests Sunday in the Cathedral of Natal before flying north to Sao Luis. Celibacy did not become a requirement for Roman Catholic priests until the middle ages. Protestant denominations allow ministers to maintain normal married lives, as do some Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-rite Catholic Churches.

'CIA funded Chamorro's campaign'

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. spy agency indirectly may have given about \$100,000 to the campaign of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro as part of some \$600,000 covertly given to Miami-based contra exiles, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday. Quoting unnamed "senior (U.S.) administration officials," the magazine said that eight months before the February 1990 election, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), without informing congress, began a secret operation that paid \$600,000 to about 100 contra political leaders and organisers opposed to Sandinista President Daniel Ortega. In its Oct. 21 issue the magazine said the CIA operation, called the Nicaraguan Exile Relocation Programme (NERP), dispensed the funds to 30 contra leaders in Miami who redistributed the money to subordinates between July 1989 and February 1990. Newsweek quoted an administration official "knowledgeable about the programme" as saying, "we were spending the money for them to go back and work in the Chamorro campaign. They knew what they were supposed to do." Chamorro aides denied the campaign received any of the NERP money, the magazine said, but a CIA audit showed "sloppy bookkeeping" and said 11 of the contra exiles receiving the money became candidates in the February elections.



Prof. Anita Hill



Judge Clarence Thomas

Truth elusive as U.S. court nominee hearings near end

WASHINGTON — A wrenching, lurid inquiry into charges of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas is unlikely to produce any hard evidence to guide senators when they vote on the nomination.

Three days of televised hearings have failed to answer the question: Who is telling the truth — Thomas, or his former aide Anita Hill?

The truth probably "will never be known in black and white," Senator Herb Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said.

Prof. Hill has alleged that Judge Thomas made sexually explicit comments to her while he was her superior at the Education Department and the Employment Opportunity Commission in the early 1980s.

Judge Thomas, who like Hill is black, has angrily denied the charges and called the hearings a "high-tech lynching."

As the hearings continued Sunday, Prof. Hill submitted to a lie detector test that found "no indication of deception" in her replies to questions about her charges against Judge Thomas. Results of the test were released by her lawyers.

Republican efforts to undercut Prof. Hill's testimony with charges that they were "concocted" by opponents of the Thomas nomination were undercut by four witnesses who said Prof. Hill told them at the time of her distress at being sexually harassed.

Other witnesses testified to Judge Thomas's character.

Both Judge Thomas and Prof. Hill may also return for testimony Monday, Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, said.

The Senate vote on the nomination, scheduled for Tuesday, is expected to be close and largely along party lines. Democrats have a 57-43 majority.

"I think we're gaining every day, but I think it's a very close call," Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said.

Testifying to the committee Susan Hoerchner, a workman's compensation judge from California and a friend of Prof. Hill, said Prof. Hill told her about sexual harassment after she became an assistant to Judge Thomas in 1981.

"She told me she was being subjected to sexual harassment by her boss. That boss was Clarence Thomas," she said.

"Anita said Clarence Thomas had repeatedly asked her out. She said he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer," Mr. Hoerchner said.

Similar statements were made by Joel Paul, Ellen Wells and John Carr about conversations they had with her in the 1980s. All but Paul are friends of Prof. Hill.

Roh warns of U.N. action against N. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo tried Monday to increase the pressure for North Korea to disclose its nuclear weapons development plans, threatening U.N. action to force Pyongyang to dismantle its facilities.

"North Korea may plunge into an unfortunate situation if it is subject to international restrictions as was Iraq," Mr. Roh told a government advisory body on national reunification.

Under the ceasefire resolution that ended the Gulf war this year, the U.N. Security Council required Iraq to help destroy its own weapons of mass destruction — including its nuclear weapons development programmes.

South Korea last week warned that North Korea could have the technology required to build an atomic bomb by 1995. Seoul already has threatened to launch a commando raid to stop Pyongyang's nuclear development.

North Korea denies that it is trying to build an atomic bomb. It says it will open its facilities to international inspection after any U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea have been removed.

Mr. Roh noted that many nations, including the Soviet Union and China, have expressed concern about North Korea's nuclear ambitions. The reclusive North is one of the world's last remaining hardline Communist states.

Mr. Roh urged the North's leaders to bow to international pressure and open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection to avoid "an unfortunate outcome."

He said the United Nations could use force to stop North Korea's nuclear programme if Pyongyang continues to refuse to sign a safeguards agreement to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

The Korean peninsula was divided in 1945. The North and South are technically at war, never having signed a peace treaty ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Koreans have held talks on easing tensions since the early 1970s but have failed to make any significant progress.

North and South Korean officials met at their heavily fortified border Monday to discuss a long-delayed meeting of prime ministers that is likely to focus on Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Bulgarian communists lose grip on power

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's former Communist Party lost its four-decade grip on power in multi-party elections, preliminary results showed Monday.

The Socialist Party (BSP), formerly Communist, was overtaken by the main anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) in Sunday's poll, according to estimates by the Bulgarian Association for Fair Elections and Civil Rights (BAFECR).

The UDF won 36 per cent of the vote and the BSP around 32 per cent. The forecast was based on voting at 811 polling stations around Bulgaria.

"It is a victory for which Bulgaria has waited for a long time," UDF leader Philip Dimitrov, a 35-year-old lawyer, told state television.

"One epoch has ended a new one is starting," he said.

The BSP won an absolute majority in a June 1990 election, preserving the party's monopoly on power held since 1946 despite the November 1989 ousting of hardline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov.

If it ended up with less than 33 per cent, the BSP would be unable to block constitutional changes or moves to strip its deputies of parliamentary immunity to criminal proceedings.

At a news conference following announcement of the estimated results, BSP leader Alexander Lilov, Mr. Zhivkov's former ideology chief, said:

"After these elections our party will keep its role as a fundamental political force in this country."

He added to one reporter: "Put that in your notebook and underline it."

Official results are not due until next week, but the estimates indicate that no party would have a clear majority.

Mr. Dimitrov stressed the UDF would not consider a coalition government with the BSP.

Instead, Mr. Dimitrov's UDF is expected to seek a coalition with other non-Communist parties which win more than the minimum four per cent required to get a share of 240 parliamentary seats to be allocated on a proportional basis.

One possible coalition partner could be the movement for Rights and Freedom, which represents Bulgaria's 1.5 million ethnic Turks and which BAFECR estimates will have six per cent of the vote.

Cuba gives citizens direct voting rights

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Cuban Communist Party congress has given Cubans the right to directly elect representatives to the country's highest legislative body.

The National Assembly is little more than a rubber stamp for President Fidel Castro, and direct elections are unlikely to alter significantly the government's political or economic policies.

Nor did the congress, which finished its fourth day Sunday in the Cuban city of Santiago de Cuba, allow other political parties.

Nonetheless, the political opening, however small, is seen as a means to strengthen base support for the party and demonstrate to other countries Cuba's willingness to move towards democracy.

Notimek, the Mexican government news service, reported the decision Sunday, a day after the 1,667 delegates to the congress voted to allow direct elections.

Cuba has barred foreign delegates and reporters from the congress.

For more than a year, Cuban political leaders have discussed the move to direct elections for the assembly, which elects the country's top governmental leaders, including its president.

The congress also resoundingly stated that the Communist Party will remain the country's sole political body. Delegates also reaffirmed the party's commitment to "Marxism and Leninism."

"Marti" is a reference to the Cuban writer and politician Jose Marti.

The congress also voted to permit members of religious groups to belong to the Communist Party, Notimek said.

On economic matters, the congress strongly endorsed Mr. Castro's call for foreign investment, especially in tourism.

The widely anticipated action comes in the wake of Mr. Castro's recent overtures to Western countries about developing the island's beaches for tourism.

Nonetheless, few economic changes are expected over the short term that would provide Cubans with a relief from the growing shortages of food and basic materials.

The congress called for a continuation of the "special period," a sign that islanders must simply adapt to their economic difficulties.

Since last year, Cuba has been on short rations of meat and basic home products. Its economy has been shattered by shrinking Soviet and Eastern European trade and aid.

The bad news from Moscow grew even grimmer after the failed August coup there, when reform accelerated.

The Soviet Union now plans to halt grain shipments to Cuba, tighten up even further on loans and make drastic cuts in military sales, the Miami Herald reported last month.

Soviet republics independence triggers Tibetan protests

PEKING (R) — Emboldened by moves towards independence by the Soviet Central Asian republics, Tibetan nationalists have launched new protests against Chinese rule of the Himalayan region, official sources have said.

Paramilitary troops forcibly suppressed four non-violent demonstrations in Lhasa, the region's capital and traditional centre of Tibet's independence movement, in the past few weeks, a Chinese official and recent visitors said.

The reported killing of a Buddhist monk in a mid-September protest has helped spread anti-Chinese unrest, the sources said.

An official at the Tibet Foreign Affairs Office in Lhasa, reached by telephone from Peking, denied the reports. "Social order is very good," the officials said.

A Tibetan who witnessed a protest in September said about 15 monks marched in front of the Jokhang Temple in central Lhasa shouting: "Tibet for Tibetans, down with Chinese rule."

"Within seconds, the People's Armed Police surrounded eight of the demonstrators, and began kicking and punching them," said the Tibetan, who arrived in Peking recently.

"One monk who was carrying the Tibetan national flag was bayoneted repeatedly until he dropped the flag."

The eight protesters were taken away in a police truck, he said. The London-based Tibet Information Network and the witness said one protester, a monk, later died.

Tibet has been rocked by periodic outbreaks of nationalist unrest since Chinese troops entered the region in 1950.